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UN: No contact yet with kidnappers

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Wednesday he was disappointed that hostage-holders in Lebanon have not yet contacted him and promised to meet them anywhere, any time. "I was disappointed because I have not heard anything since I got the information yesterday or the day before," Mr. Perez de Cuellar told reporters as he stepped out of U.N. headquarters. Asked if he would send an envoy to meet the extremists holding Americans Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, he indicated willingness but said, "I don't even know where Islamic Jihad is located." On Tuesday Islamic Jihad announced publicly that it was sending an envoy to meet with Mr. Perez de Cuellar in the next 48 hours and convey a "very important message." The U.N. chief dismissed the idea of a 48-hour deadline and said: "I will wait until the end of my term because this is so important from a humanitarian point of view." On Wednesday three rocket-propelled grenades exploded outside a U.N. office in Beirut, apparently fired by supporters of a hostage release. An anonymous caller claiming responsibility warned the secretary-general to stay out of the hostage deal and called him "the godfather of this deal."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرابطة

Rafsanjani sends message to Assad

DAMASCUS (AP) — A high-ranking Iranian official arrived here Wednesday with a letter from President Hashemi Rafsanjani for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) reported. Abdullah Nouri, Iran's interior minister, said he would meet with his Syrian counterpart, Mohammad Haraba, and other ranking officials during his five-day visit, SANA said. It quoted him as saying he was carrying a message from Mr. Rafsanjani for President Assad. The contents of the letter were not disclosed. Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said the agenda would include talks on international issues, the Palestinian problem and the U.S.-proposed Middle East peace talks. Iran called it "plans of world arrogance to stabilise the Zionist regime." Iran has been railing against the peace plan, and especially Syria's acceptance, since Mr. Assad first agreed to attend a peace conference last month. Mr. Nouri's arrival came a day after a pro-Iranian Lebanese faction released a photo of American hostage Terry Anderson, along with a statement saying the group was sending an envoy to U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar within 48 hours.

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Aerial show held to mark anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor Wednesday attended an aerial show organised by the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club (RJGC) to mark the anniversary of the King's accession to the throne. Aircraft and gliders from the Royal Jordanian Air Force, Royal Jordanian, the national carrier, Arab Wings, the Royal Jordanian Air Academy, the Royal Falcons Club and the Public Security Department took part in the show. The show is part of a three-day festival to which the public are invited to attend at Amman civil airport at Marka. Public can also fly in some of these aircraft for a nominal fee. The RJGC was established in 1966 upon King Hussein's directives and is affiliated to the Royal Air Academy. Its present membership is 150.

Germans freed in Lebanon face probe

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese army said it handed over a German couple to the military prosecutor Wednesday after detaining them for weeks on suspicion of military collaboration with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The army said earlier the couple had been released after an investigation established that they were volunteer nurses working in hospitals in two refugee camps in South Lebanon. Judicial sources said the prosecutor would investigate the presence in the country of Gerd Schletter, 49, and his wife Ingeborg, 41. Lebanese troops detained the couple when soldiers moved into the port town of Sidon and seized control of the PLO's last bases in the north after four days of battles last month.

Benjedi: Poll date yet to be fixed

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's presidential office said Tuesday no date had yet been fixed for the country's first multi-party general elections which were postponed in June after clashes between Muslim fundamentalists and security forces. A statement, carried by the Algerian news agency APS after reports voting would be held in place in November, said President Chadli Benjedi would decide the date based on current talks between Prime Minister Sidahmed Ghazali and political parties.

Pakistan denies link with nuclear case

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Pakistani government said Wednesday it had no official links with a retired Pakistani army officer accused by the United States of trying to smuggle nuclear weapons. Richard Bragdon, an American intelligence official, said he had been arrested last month in Germany and was being held in a Frankfurt jail pending a court hearing on a U.S. extradition request. He is wanted by a Philadelphia court on a 1987 warrant alleging he tried to buy special fuel for Pakistan that could be used to enhance a nuclear explosion. Pakistan denies it is developing nuclear weapons. A U.S. State Department spokesman said the U.S. relationship existed between the retired brigadier and the government was "very tenuous."

Morocco sentences four to death

ABAT (R) — A Casablanca court sentenced four Moroccan men to death for the murder of a business associate of its chauffeur, lawyers said Wednesday. The verdict ended a trial of 21 accused men involved in the murder of Ibrahim al-Hajj, a wealthy businessman, who was shot dead at a house in the northern suburb of Mohammed VI. The chauffeur, Driss Fouhi, was also sentenced to death. The other three men were sentenced to death last year. Sentenced to death were Abdelmajid Bensouda and his brother Ahmad, both business associates of Mr. al-Hajj, and a fourth man, Abdelrahman Belkacem. Four other accused were sentenced to between eight months and three years for complicity. Other accused were acquitted.

King: Last chance for peace

Disastrous results await if opportunity wasted

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that the superpower-proposed Arab-Israeli peace talks represented the last chance for just peace in the Middle East and warned that catastrophe would be the result if the present opportunity was wasted. "I think it may be the last chance," said the King in the weekly "Encounter" programme broadcast on Jordan Television. "After all these years that have passed of striving to get this chronic problem resolved, I believe that the degree of frustration, the degree of despair, the degree of loss of hope (and) the degree of extremism borne of a people denied of all rights could be disastrous beyond this point unless we move in the direction resolving this problem," the King told interviewer Rami Khouri. "I think there are many encouraging signs that were not there before, so it is a last chance in that sense, and there are also physical aspects of the needs of all concerned. In the context of peace they could be addressed: water, economic development and so on," he said. "Without that it's a downhill slide for everybody." Reviewing American involvement in Middle East peace efforts, the King said: "Wherever there is a move, a way to realise what the potential of the United States and its potentials are, as long as they speak of peace in terms of the issue here and the need to move on it, I believe they (the U.S.) are sincere and I am encouraged by everything I've heard so far..." The King said the peace conference, proposed by Washington and Moscow to be held in October, has not taken "its final form." "There are still many many questions to be worked out or answered, but I think that for the first time in years and years what we see is that the process moving much faster than even our ability to keep with it at times," he added. By dropping insistence on procedural matters such as the nature of the peace conference and other issues, the Arabs have made concessions with the hope to get to the conference on the basis of the principle of territory in exchange for peace, the King noted. "I have been saying since the beginning that we should leave a lot of the old taboos and cliches and move ahead," the King said. "I think that there were considerable Arab concessions and we hope that on the Israeli side as well can see the present opportunity that we see..." "Security is... a result of an honourable peace that we need and we seek for all concerned," the King said. The Israelis have to get "out of the fortress mentality... to see what peace really means in the broader context of not being imprisoned within that fortress overlooking in suspicion and fear about everybody around," the King said. "The Palestinians need a similar process. We need it in the Arab states adjoining Israel. But beyond that the problems are regional problems..." "Take the land mass of Jordan and the last mass of Palestine, including Israel... it is not a question of an approach to try to get the Palestinians in the world and every Jordanian in the world and every Israeli in the world and every Jew in the world to come and to be confined to this area," the King said. The objective as "peace, with all its offers to real opportunities and chances to have the talents and abilities of people to create a better environment and hopefully a better world," he said. Pointing out that 275,000 people of "Palestinian origin, Jordanians, in some cases some who did not leave from here, are now back with us in Jordan" after leaving Kuwait and other Gulf states in the wake of the Gulf crisis, the King described the influx as the "third wave" of Palestinians into Jordan. "To have this third wave of people come back here — they are welcome amongst their family and amongst their brethren with no rights — is really shocking..." the King said. "Why shouldn't the Palestinians in Kuwait have the opportunity of having a Kuwaiti nationality and a Palestinian nationality, a Kuwaiti nationality and a Jordanian nationality in the same way that an Israeli has the right to be an Israeli and an American at the same time..." the King asked. "In this treatment there is much that has been wrong and it is a regional problem and everybody has to address and look at it as we did," he said. On the impact of the displacement of millions of people as a result of the Gulf crisis, the King said: "We have to have a connection of interests to bring people together and create bonds and that would outlast any conflict that might exist. We need to rely on each other. The Arab World must be alive and the rights of people must be recognised. There must be freedom, respect for human rights for the generations to come." On the Israeli public's demand for peace, the King said: "I hope so. I think that as far as the Israeli public is concerned they said they needed an opportunity to contribute towards peace. Everyone is suffering and there must be an end to this. This is a chance for change." "It is our responsibility to see to it that the coming generations will live in a healthy and clean atmosphere and to create something that has been lacking so far." In reply to a question whether the Americans and the Israelis, with their upper hand, could create an imbalance in peace negotiations, the King said: "I think that there could be such

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King receives Iraqi message, briefs Ramadan on peace efforts

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, who conveyed to the King a verbal message from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The King briefed Mr. Ramadan on the latest efforts in the Middle East peace process. Prime Minister Taher Masihi, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh attended the meeting, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said. The under-secretary of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Saad Al Faisal, and the Iraqi ambassador to Jordan were present at the meeting. Mr. Ramadan said upon his arrival in Amman that the Iraqi president's

message to the King deals with the "current Arab affairs at this critical juncture and emphasises the importance of coordinating Arab countries' political stands in the face of all eventualities." Mr. Masihi later held a separate round of talks with Mr. Ramadan on the latest developments in the region and other related issues, Petra said. Mr. Ramadan called for joint Arab action to end U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait. "The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Mr. Ramadan was speaking before leaving for Jordan. "Effective Arab measures should be taken to lift the economic blockade on the Iraqi people since it constitutes a serious precedent and violates U.N. Security Council resolutions and human rights principles," INA quoted Mr. Ramadan as saying. He said the president's message touched on bilateral ties, the need for joint action and the "delicate Arab situation, specifically the continued aggression on Iraq by maintaining the economic blockade and speedy moves to liquidate the Palestine cause." Mr. Ramadan described the sanctions as a "continued plot and war against Iraq." In a reference to U.S. moves to convene Arab-Israeli peace talks, he said the sanctions "coincide with suspect efforts led by America to consecrate Zionist occupation of Arab land."

Iraqi leadership confident of survival, believes events of last year vindicate its course

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

BAGHDAD — A year after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi leadership feels that the events that followed the invasion have reinforced its basic political argument against U.S. influence in the region and that the regime will survive despite its isolation and the international economic embargo. In an interview with this reporter on the first anniversary of the invasion, Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hamadi implied that the leadership believes that an accumulation of Arab resentment of growing American influence, combined with domestic political reforms, and an agreement with Iraq's Kurdish minority on autonomy will work to ensure the continuity of the regime. Dr. Hamadi conceded that the U.S. influence has been consolidated as a result of the Gulf war, but argued that this influence would eventually clash with Arab interests and aspirations. According to this Iraqi vision, Iraq, under the ruling Baathist Party, would survive as a model for a nationalist independent Arab state that refused to submit to foreign domination while the pro-American governments in the region would find themselves at conflict with their people. "This regime is strong and will survive," said the soft-spoken prime minister assertively. In Dr. Hamadi's opinion, the continuation of the Western isolation of Iraq and demands to remove the regime has consolidated the nationalist credentials of Iraq and boosted the prestige of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. The American demands to remove President Saddam, according to Dr. Hamadi, have only served "to enhance his nationalist credentials and boost his popularity." Ordinary Iraqis interviewed by the Jordan Times voiced strong criticism of their leader, but they viewed the



Saadoun Hamadi

Western campaign against him as an evidence of his refusal to submit — something that Iraqis seem to respect. At the same time, based on dozens of interviews, there seems to be a consensus that invading Kuwait was a mistake — at least from a tactical viewpoint. But in the interview Prime Minister Hamadi refused to discuss the decision to go into Kuwait insisting that the Iraqi argument had not changed. Dr. Hamadi's comments, however, did not amount to putting a tag on the decision to send Iraqi troops to Kuwait while they emphasised that the basic Iraqi position vis-a-vis nationalist Arab issues and interests have not altered. In the view of Iraqi analysts, the leadership is avoiding a public reassessment for three reasons. First, it does not want to give what it views as justification for the continuation of the embargo and demands for removing President Saddam. Second, the leadership is caught not to open fronts with the Arab countries involved when it is trying to reintegrate itself into the Arab World. Third, it does not want to open a debate on the issue at home. In the hour-long interview, the first he has given to a newspaper since he was appointed prime minister last April, Dr. Hamadi compared the post-Gulf war state of the Arab

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Palestinians clamouring to fly out of Kuwait

KUWAIT (R) — Deprived of jobs and education for their children in Kuwait, thousands of Palestinians are clamouring to fly out of the country they once knew as home. Travel agencies, struggling to cope with thousands have arranged for 16 charter flights by Aug. 13. The first three direct flights to Amman left Tuesday, carrying 340 Palestinians with Jordanian passports. Two planes were scheduled to arrive Friday and three more flights are planned for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The flights, charging 60 dinars (\$300) for adults, are operated by the private Egyptian airline ZAS. Egyptian, the Egyptian national carrier, has operated 11 flights packed with 160 Palestinians out of Kuwait in the past two weeks, the airline said. The flights go to Amman via Cairo because Egypt does not have the right to fly directly. "All the people (Palestinians) want to leave," a spokeswoman for a travel agency told Reuters. They are not being forced by the Kuwaiti authorities to leave. They are going because they have no jobs and cannot send their children to schools in Kuwait, a Palestinian community leader said. He did not want to be identified. "Many are rushing to leave to have their children registered in Jordanian schools before the end of August," he added. Palestinians cannot send their children to government schools and universities in Kuwait. Most parents, unemployed and with no hope of employment, cannot afford private

Turkey to occupy 'buffer zone' in northern Iraq

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey has decided to occupy a five-kilometre deep "buffer zone" in northern Iraq to prevent Turkish Kurdish guerrillas from infiltrating into Turkey, a government official said Wednesday. The unexpected move marks the most dramatic step Turkey has taken in seven years of fighting its Kurdish separatists. It could put Turkey into conflict with Iraq and raise tensions with the U.S.-led allied force poised on Turkey's border with Iraq to protect Iraq's Kurds. "We are declaring a five-kilometre region along the border a buffer zone," Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said in an interview with the Turkish daily Hürriyet. Turkish troops crossed into Iraq on Monday to flush out Turkish Kurdish guerrillas operating from bases in the neighbouring country. Officials have so far released no details of the operation. But Turkish newspapers reported Wednesday that Turkish F-4 and F-16 warplanes had flown to 7-10 sorties over Kurdish guerrilla camps in northern Iraq over two days. The operation also involved at least 20,000 Turkish soldiers and light armoured tanks, the reports said. Mr. Yilmaz and the government official provided no details of the proposed "buffer zone." The official said Iraq's Kurdish groups, who have controlled northern Iraq since an allied humanitarian force pulled out July 15, would be banned from the zone. The leaders of the Iraqi Kurds,

Iraq accuses Islamic states of following American line

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Iraq Wednesday accused fellow Islamic states of following the American line by calling for continued sanctions on Iraq until it complies with United Nations resolutions. Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaf, minister of state for foreign affairs of Iraq, told a news conference a resolution on Iraq before the 45-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Istanbul was "a repetition of American allegations." A draft of the resolution made available to Reuters also blames the Iraqi government for the sufferings of the Iraqi people in the last year. It is expected to be passed by the conference on its last day Thursday. The resolution was initiated by Kuwait, which was invaded by Iraq a year ago, and supported by 27 countries. They include Iran and Libya as well as Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other members of the alliance which helped U.S. forces fight Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February. "The draft resolution is a repetition of the American allegations. It just for a moment we forget about who presented the resolution, any obser-

ver reading the text will say it was written by the Americans," Mr. Sahaf said. He said those backing the resolution "are using the American method exactly, as if they had been asked by the American administration to act in this way." Mr. Sahaf said Iraq's main concern now was to provide food for the people. Iraq has had trouble buying food from abroad, although food is exempt from U.N. sanctions. The OIC conference has firmly rebuffed Iraq's attempts to get the sanctions eased but Mr. Sahaf denied Iraq was isolated. "There is no isolation between Iraq and other countries. There is only political terrorism led by the United States and its allies in this issue to block Iraq..." he said. "This campaign hysterically waged against Iraq will certainly fail... It's an unprecedented, crazy campaign. It's a superpower hysteria unprecedented in history," he added. The Baghdad newspaper Babil said Wednesday the OIC countries violated the principles of Islam by supporting continued sanctions.

"They have forgotten the suffering of the Iraqi people and did not mention lifting the unjust sanctions imposed on our people to satisfy their masters, the Americans," it said. In other developments: The five permanent U.N. Security Council members were very close to agreement on a resolution that would allow Iraq to sell \$1.5 billion worth of oil over six months under strict U.N. controls, the U.S. ambassador said Wednesday. U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said the five permanent members are also close to agreement on a second resolution that would demand Iraqi compliance with U.N. nuclear, chemical and biological weapons inspectors. Under the proposed oil sale resolution, the funds would be placed in a U.N.-controlled escrow account to purchase food, medicine and other relief supplies, and U.N. representatives would monitor their distribution. Western diplomats said Iraq would have no control over the funds. — A U.N. gun warfare inspection

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Iraq says unexploded bombs killed 600

BAGHDAD (AP) — More than 600 Iraqi civilians have been killed or wounded by bombs that did not explode when dropped by allied forces in the Gulf war, Baghdad newspaper reported Wednesday.

The reports said the Ministry of Health has recorded 608 deaths and injuries, including 19 killed and 176 wounded in the southern province of Basra, which because of its proximity to Kuwait received some of the heaviest air attacks.

The papers said Health Ministry undersecretary Shauqi Sabri Murqus reported Tuesday that "the explosions of bombs which failed to explode during the allied air raids inflicted heavy damage on civilian installations and people's homes."

Precision bombing on primarily military targets has been credited with keeping civilian casualties low during the war, although there have been no official statistics.

In Baghdad, for example, there were some deaths attributed to cruise missiles which went astray after being struck by anti-aircraft fire and crashed into populated areas.

The most notable exceptions were the Ameriyah air raid shelter in southwest Baghdad, where up to 400 civilians were killed by precision weaponry. The U.S. military command claimed the shelter was being used as an army command and communications centre.

In Fajr, some 100 kilometres west of the capital, about 60 people were killed and 200 wounded when a rocket fired from a jet missed a bridge over the Euphrates River and slammed into an apartment building and marketplace.

In Basra, which was used as a military staging area for the forces in Kuwait, there was heavy bombing and shelling. Officials there say hundreds of civilians died, but they have released no specific figure.

In May, Dr. Murqus said scores of Iraqis, mostly children, were either killed or wounded by unexploded cluster bombs, which were approached and handled by civilians.

He said the explosions of some of the devices resulted in memory loss and limb amputations. Kuwaiti hospitals have averaged two injuries a day from unexploded ordnance, both Iraqi and allied.

The Baghdad Observer reported Wednesday that six Iraqi children who were wounded during the war would soon receive treatment in Jordan at the expense of Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the handicapped.

On July 30, a group of 22 Iraqi children who were seriously injured during the war left for Germany for treatment for injuries such as burns, fractures, limb amputations and skull damage, the English-language daily said.

Arabs have to 'put their act together' before peace talks, Canadian analyst says

By Serene Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amidst intense moves by all parties to prepare for a Middle East conference in October, a Canadian professor of political science is advising the Arabs to get "their act together" before the meeting is held so that they do not get "caught off guard" again.

Professor Rex Brynen, from the Department of political Science at McGill University of Quebec, suggested several possible scenarios that would result from the peace conference, and ways to cash in on any outcome. "It's important to make a realistic assessment of the (expected) outcome of the peace talks," Dr. Brynen told the Jordan Times.

Although many factors play into account, Dr. Brynen says, "conditions in the U.S. are unusually propitious for resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict." These conditions, he added, include the often-talked about "window of opportunity" created by the Gulf war, President George Bush's "new world order," and the American president's determination to reach some kind of settlement if he is elected for a second time to the white House.

Dr. Brynen also outlined other factors that he felt would have a direct effect on the

outcome of the peace talks. He said that at this point in time, "Arabs are very disoriented, especially after the Gulf crisis and the war that ensued, the position of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is tarnished because of its support for Iraq, the Soviet Union's role has declined, and, in Israel, a hardline government is leading the peace talks."

"To those who would argue for delay in the hopes that conditions will improve, I would say frankly that in the short and medium-term, things are only likely to get worse: Settlements, Jewish immigration, declining Arab support for Palestinians and the position of the PLO in the occupied territories," Dr. Brynen said. "The U.S. (also) can safely ignore (the Palestinian problem) for years. The Israelis can sit on the sidelines for even longer. This is not something I say lightly, given the immense suffering of Palestinians under occupation. But it is true nonetheless."

Dr. Brynen also tackled the issue of the peace "process" itself, saying he believed "the U.S. has focused its efforts on getting parties to the table and tried to discourage discussion on what they might do once they are there."

Dr. Brynen explained that Israel's condition were in-

tended to "abort and weaken the Palestinian position," especially on the issue of Palestinian representation in the conference. "But it is better for the Palestinians to be in rather than out of the conference, so that if it fails Palestinians are not blamed," Dr. Brynen said.

But the real problem lies in the position of the PLO in the occupied territories. "If the PLO is seen to have made many concessions to the Sharmir government, it will weaken and damage the PLO position in the occupied territories," Dr. Brynen said. Yet, he added, he believed the Palestinian delegation chosen to attend the conference can assert, prior to the conference, "that they are representing the PLO and Palestinians from East Jerusalem."

Dr. Brynen, who is currently in Jordan to research the democratisation process in the Kingdom, highlighted a number of scenarios. The first is a comprehensive settlement which would include an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. "This won't happen. I don't think there would be a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal because the current Israeli government is ideologically incapable of giving up the West Bank and East Jerusalem," he said. "This is not a

political decision. It is simply because Sharmir is attached to these territories and he considers them a part of Israel."

"I also don't think the Americans will or can add pressure on Israel to give up territory," he added. "They will likely be able to only purchase small concessions."

Another scenario is autonomy for Palestinians, pending a final settlement. "If autonomy is followed by negotiations that would not be bad," Dr. Brynen said. "It would be a confidence-building measure for Israel, especially if it is followed by bilateral talks with its Arab neighbours, allowing Palestinians under occupation time to catch their breath."

The danger in such an outcome, he added, will be if certain Arab countries "cut separate deals" with Israel. "The Syrians have pledged not to cut a separate deal with Israel because that would damage Palestinian national interests," Dr. Brynen said.

Another outcome possibility is that the conference might fail. "This is very likely due to Israel's intransigence," Dr. Brynen said. "This provides the opportunity for Jordanians and Palestinians to put the blame on Israel, and to affect and damage U.S.-Israeli relations."

Report shows 2,387 crimes committed in June

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 2,387 crimes were committed in Jordan in June this year, with 87.3 per cent of them discovered by the police, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the investigation division at the Public Security Department (PSD).

Crimes committed by minors, resulting in slight injuries came on top of the list, amounting to 972, the PSD bulletin said.

It said that the Police Department in the Amman region had most of the crimes, totalling 967, followed by Irbid, with 475 and Zarqa with 391.

During June, a total of 492 robberies were committed in Jordan with 65 per cent of them discovered, said the bulletin.

It said that 457 persons were involved in the robberies, including 26 women and 35 foreigners. Most of the robberies were committed by 18-27 year old people. Of the robberies, 31.3 per cent involved youths under 18 years of age and nearly 50 per cent of the robberies were committed by unemployed persons, including nearly 12 per cent students, the bulletin noted.

Referring to murders, the bulletin pointed out that six of them were committed during the month of June, against nine in June of last year. It said that all the murders were discovered.

According to the report, three murders were committed in the Amman region, two in the Balqa region and one in Zarqa. The victims were six people, including three women.

In one murder case fire arms

were used; in the rest of the cases the victims were killed with sharp tools, said the report.

It said two were crimes of honour while the other four resulted from family disputes, and feuds among families over material issues.

The report revealed that June witnessed 13 attempted murders compared to nine of June last year, and that 15 people were involved in the attempted murders, including two women.

Crimes committed due to misbehaviour amounted to 10, against 52 in June last year, and total of 68 persons fell victim to these crimes, the report noted.

It said that there were 10 embezzlement cases, of which were discovered, and it was found that 56 persons were involved in these embezzlement cases.

Fining cases in June this year registered 39 incidents, resulting in the death of three persons, as the injury of 26 others, according to the bulletin.

The report said there were 10 crimes committed by non-Jordanians against 94 in June 1990. The bulletin said that the non-Jordanians were involved in personal attacks on others, robberies, drug trafficking, and housebreaking cases.

According to a PSD announcement last May, a total of 21,888 crimes were committed in Jordan during 1990, registering an 8.2 per cent increase of the 1989 figures, with murders, robberies and immoral acts growing considerably.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Israelis jailed for refusing to serve in W. Bank

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli army jailed three soldiers for refusing to serve in the occupied West Bank, the Israeli Peace Group Yesh Gvul said Tuesday. First Sergeant Roman Katz, 24, was sentenced to 28 days in a military prison while Corporal Yehi Pines, 27, and private Baruch Ben Gal, 19, each got 14 days, Yesh Gvul spokesman Mike Levin told reporters. He said about 140 Israeli soldiers had faced charges for refusing to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip since the outbreak of the Palestinian revolt in December, 1987. Yesh Gvul means, in Hebrew, "There is a Limit." Israeli police Tuesday prevented Biyamin Kahane, 24, the son of murdered anti-Arab rabbi Meir Kahane, and a group of supporters from entering the town of Umm Al Fahm, Israel Radio reported. Mr. Kahane was held for two hours by police after insisting on entering the village.

Qadhafi invites Benjedid to Libya

ALGIERS (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, whose country could attend Middle East peace talks, has invited the Algerian president to visit Libya on Aug. 28. Libyan envoy Khouildi Hamidi, number three in the Libyan hierarchy, met Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and said afterwards he had brought a message from Colonel Qadhafi. Mr. Benjedid was invited to attend the inauguration of a water pipeline project, Mr. Hamidi added. Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi said Monday Algeria would ask the Arab Maghreb Union, which also includes Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Mauritania, to call a foreign ministers' meeting on the latest U.S. peace efforts. He was speaking at a joint news conference with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Palestinian sentenced to life by Israelis

TEL AVIV (AP) — A Gaza military court Tuesday sentenced a Palestinian to life in prison for killing an Arab he suspected of collaborating with Israel, the military command said. Faiz Ab Shabab, 39, was also found guilty of membership in Force 17, the military branch of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Fatah faction, an army spokesman said. Mr. Shabab, from the Gaza Strip town Beni Shabab, allegedly killed an Arab he suspected of collaborating with Israel in May 1989, Arab reports and the army said. Arab reporters said Mr. Abu Shabab told the judges after he is sentencing that he did not recognise the court as legal and called for "a government and a flag for the Palestinian people."

OBITUARY

THE KAPISANAN NG MANGGAGAWANG FILIPINO SA JORDAN (KMP) with its officers & member workers wishes to convey its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the deceased

Minister Counsellor Ali M. Taupan

of the Philippine Embassy.
His passing away is a great loss to the Filipino workers.

The KMP/Amman

Moroccan forces sweep Sahara 'no-man's land'

RABAT (Agencies) — Morocco has said its armed forces were making sweeps in no-man's land between their defence lines and the Western Sahara's borders.

The government statement made no mention of Tifariti, an oasis 15 kilometres from Mauritania which Polisario guerrillas say was attacked by Moroccan aircraft on Sunday and Monday.

The Polisario report, was the first of serious fighting for nearly two years. Morocco and Polisario have agreed to a U.N.-supervised referendum to decide the territory's future and an informal ceasefire has been in effect.

"The Royal Armed Forces have conducted and are conducting sweeps and clean-up operations in no-man's land," said the Moroccan statement, carried by the official news agency MAP.

It said the Polisario had "infiltrated into the no-man's land armed and trained elements with the clearly defined mission to commit terrorist acts inside the Moroccan Sahara."

It added that the guerrillas' aim was to "perturb and delay preparations for the peaceful conduct of the self-determination referendum" planned in January.

The vote will give the people of the disputed territory a choice between independence as demanded by Polisario or integration with Morocco which controls four-fifths of the area.

The government said the no-man's land was the area between Moroccan defence lines and the borders of Algeria and Mauritania.

The statement said the defence lines had been erected some distance away from the frontier "to enable the Royal Armed Forces to defend the area in such a way as their operations do not encroach on the territories of the neighbouring states Algeria and Mauritania."

The statement said the Moroccan military operations were being carried out "considering

the responsibilities assumed by Morocco for the maintenance of order and security over all the territory of the Moroccan Sahara."

Polisario statements published in neighbouring Algeria said the Moroccan air force launched a massive attack on Tifariti on Sunday and made a second raid Monday.

Tifariti is a waterhole in what the Moroccans call the no-man's land and is located about 55 kilometres east of the nearest Moroccan defence lines.

Polisario said 15 Moroccan aircraft took part in Sunday's strike and one of them was shot down. The Moroccan statement did not say what kind of forces were involved.

It is the first report of serious fighting in Western Sahara since November 1989 after the two sides accepted the U.N. peace plan.

The plan is to be implemented by a special U.N. mission known as MINURSO comprising 2,800 troops, police and civilians. It is to cost about \$180 million with 34 different countries contributing personnel.

Moroccan officials say some U.N. military technicians have visited the area to prepare for the arrival of the force the first elements of which are due to arrive next weekend.

The Western Sahara was traditionally part of Morocco, but the Algerian-backed Polisario, claiming to represent the indigenous population, started a guerrilla war in 1975 to capture it after the colonial power, Spain, pulled out.

The army essentially defeated Polisario by constructing a three-metre wall around the territory to prevent Polisario from conducting raids from Algeria.

Algeria has stopped backing the movement in recent years as relations warmed with Morocco, and armed clashes have become rare.

Iran bans peep-holes in dress code crackdown

TEHRAN (R) — Police have outlawed peep-holes in the front doors of private offices and vowed to shut down any foreign company whose female staff flout Iran's strict Islamic dress code.

Checks on women for compliance with the code, or "hijab," have been extended in recent weeks from the streets to company offices, including those of foreign organisations, where police have detained a number of women, witnesses said.

Peep-holes presumably give "bad-hijab" women at work the chance to cover up before strangers are allowed to enter.

Twelve Iranian offices have already been closed down because of "non-observance of Islamic norms," senior police official Abdollah Mohammedi said in remarks published Tuesday.

"Companies which have peep-holes in their front doors should remove them," Mr. Mohammedi, head of the public places bureau of Tehran police, told Kayhan newspaper.

The law requires women to cover their head and body with loose garments, showing no more than their face and hands. Violators may receive up to 74 lashes, be fined or imprisoned.

Massoud Kiumarsi, oorth Tehran police commander, told Kayhan Monday that heads of foreign firms in Iran would also be held accountable for any violation of the dress code by their staff.

"Unfortunately, inspection of a number of foreign companies recently showed that ladies in some of them worked in disregard of Islamic norms. They were dealt with severely," he said.

"Police will in no way allow the blood of the martyrs to be desecrated and... will seal the office of any company found in violation, regardless of its nationality," Mr. Kiumarsi added.

Sudan reports OAU mediation efforts

NAIROBI (Agencies) — A member of Sudan's military junta has said an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) peace initiative had begun to end the country's eight-year civil war.

Colonel Mohammed al Amin Khalifa told a news conference in Nairobi that envoys of Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, current OAU chairman, had already visited Khartoum in a process expected to lead to peace talks with southern rebels.

"Prospects (for peace) are becoming brighter," said Col. Khalifa, in Kenya on a two-day visit as part of a tour which will later take him to Uganda, Zaire and the Central African Republic for talks on efforts to end Sudan's civil war.

All four nations have borders with Sudan's southern region and are known to be sympathetic in varying degrees to the rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), a 50,000-strong force led by former army Colonel John Garang.

Nigeria had agreed to mediate between Khartoum and the SPLA at last June's OAU summit, said Col. Khalifa, who led the government side in two rounds of peace talks in August and December 1989.

Both rounds failed to make any progress towards a peaceful settlement and the two sides had not yet met since.

"Up to now there are no direct contacts with the SPLA but there have been (contacts) through others and we encourage this," said Col. Khalifa, whose remarks in Arabic were translated by a Sudanese aide.

No SPLA officials were immediately available for comment on Col. Khalifa's remarks.

The SPLA is fighting to end what it sees as domination of the Muslim, Arabised north over the Christian, animist south. It wants to create a secular Sudan and win a bigger share of meagre national spending for ethnic and religious minorities.

Hundreds of thousands of people, mostly southern Sudanese civilians, have died as a result of the conflict. They mostly perished from starvation or during long and punishing treks away from the war-torn region.

The SPLA has dealt a serious blow by its expulsion from bases in Ethiopia after dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam was ousted in May. This ended years of vital military support.

"In a nutshell the roots of the problem are the sharing of power, resources and cultural identity," said Col. Khalifa, who said there was "a lot of common ground" between the two sides.

But the junta, in power since its leader Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Ali Bashir seized power from an elected government two years ago, has ruled out the return of a multi-party system in Sudan.

It also refuses outright any changes to a federal system of government and the Islamic Sharia laws it introduced this year.

"We don't believe the multi-party system is suitable anywhere in Africa. It's like wearing a three-piece suit in the desert," Col. Khalifa said through translator Abdul Samei Ahmad, who is a political adviser to the military junta.

Sudan faces economic collapse, with runaway inflation and possible expulsion from the International Monetary Fund because of unpaid loan arrears of more than a billion dollars.

Relief agencies say 7.5 millions face starvation due to drought and war in Sudan this year, but Col. Khalifa reiterated the government's line that the reports were exaggerated.

"I challenge you to find a single Sudanese who died of famine," Col. Khalifa said. "There is no starvation."

Kuwait puts out 274 wells

AHMADI, Kuwait (Agencies) — Kuwaiti officials say firefighters have recapped 274 of the emirate's 640 blazing wells and predicted all fires would be out by March.

The new figure, up from 249 on July 26, indicates the firefighting teams are extinguishing about two fires a day.

The pace will pick up by the end of August with the arrival of 12 more teams to join nine U.S. and Canadian teams who have been battling the fires in the Al Ahmadi area since March.

A team from the National Iranian Oil Company was on standby to add its weight to their efforts. The team, with past experience of recapping damaged wells from the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, has been assigned 28 wells in Kuwait.

"So far we have recapped 274 wells and I believe all the fires will be out by March if not before," Mahmoud, Somali of the Kuwait Oil Company told a news conference.

Less than half the wells, set alight by the Gulf war which ended in late February, would be productive once they had been recapped, he added.

The scale of destruction has hampered efforts to restore Kuwait's output capacity, which peaked at two million barrels a day before Iraq's invasion of the emirate on Aug. 2, 1990.

The last burning well at the Al Ahmadi and Maqwa fields will be recapped in a week, leaving firefighters to focus on the adjoining Burgan, according to the officials.

Burgan is one of the biggest fields in the world with a total number of 426 wells.

Kuwaiti officials estimate that \$85 million worth of crude goes up in smoke every day, down from the previous figure of \$120 million.

Scores of wells are still raging out of control and the thick clouds of black smoke turn day into night. Lakes of crude reflect the fires and the smoke.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Sooray
18:30	Les Chevaliers de Clef
19:00	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	The Family Man
21:10	Outlines
22:00	News in English
22:30	Movie of the week: "Swordsmen of Siena"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:24	Fajr
05:00	(Sunrise) Duha
12:41	Dhuhr
16:21	'Asr
18:32	Maghreb
20:39	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 62366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian Apostolic Church Tel. 827881, 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623824 and 649322	
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology	
Slight rise in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman	19 / 32
Aqaba	24 / 38
Jericho	21 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 38
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 37. Humidity readings:	

Amman 58 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Salim Al Dabbousi	776751
Dr. Jamal Abu Ota	746426
Dr. Muzamir Al Quraishi	776238
Dr. Saleh Zayed	790677
First pharmacy	661912
Farouk pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	678235
Natourah pharmacy	625672
Al Salem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644943
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
IRBID:	
Dr. Nabil Abu Ota	(-)
Al Shamsi pharmacy	(985238)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih	(-)
Khalifa pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	(-)
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	771212
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	665800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	(-)
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	(-)
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information	(-)
(Directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Repairs	623101
Abdul Television Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815415
Electric Power	(-)

Jordanians generally pessimistic about peace parley but they believe opportunity to try should be seized

By Mariam M. Shalhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians are generally pessimistic over the chances of success of the planned peace conference between Arabs and Israelis. They believe, however, that the opportunity to sit at the October peace conference should be seized by Jordan, the Palestinians and other Arabs in order to prove that it is Israeli intransigence alone that stands in the way of solving the Palestinians' problem.

Continued mistrust of Israeli intentions and the failure of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to take a leading role as the representative of the Palestinians in the talks are among the main reasons for the pessimism, according to a random survey conducted by the Jordan Times this week.

The Jordanian position and the leadership's acceptance of the U.S. proposals for holding the conference have met with overall approval, according to the survey.

Jordan's willingness to sit at the peace table with the Israelis is not seen as a "sell out," but rather as a tool to show Arab willingness to accept a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem and to expose the intransigence of the Israelis.

Most Jordanians and Palestinians interviewed say that they do not believe that Israel will give up land it occupied during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war in return for peace.

"The Israelis are building more settlements on the West Bank, Gaza and even on the Golan Heights," says Yousef Saegh, a downtown shopkeeper. "The settlements are everywhere and most of our land is already expropriated. I don't know what there is to negotiate. The Arab governments are making fools of themselves thinking they can get anything from the Israelis," he adds.

"Surrender and not peace is how I would describe the peace process," says Mohammad Yousef, who lives in the Wahdat refugee camp. "We are the losers because Israel will say I won't take any more of your land if you sign a peace agreement. So the Arabs will end up having signed away all rights to our land for nothing in return."

With the exception of the Islamists, most Jordanians and Palestinians believe that the only viable solution at the moment for the Arab-Israeli conflict is to apply U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and thus agree to live alongside the state of Israel. At the same time they feel that forfeiting the right to all of Palestine has been a drawn out emotional and psychological struggle for them.

"By accepting the existence of the state of Israel we are being realistic, but we are sad because the reality is an injustice," says Husni Sahri, a lawyer.

"We are ready to recognise what is basically an illegal enti-

ty just because the rest of the world wants us to do so and because we basically have no other choice," adds the lawyer.

While those interviewed for the survey say they do not want a perpetual state of war, most feel that if the peace talks fail to deliver a land-for-peace solution, which would liberate the West Bank, Gaza and other occupied Arab lands, including east Jerusalem, then eventually there will be more wars.

"The Israelis have said that they will not give up one inch of land that they occupied and I believe that they will continue to be their position," said Amin Barhoum, a student at the University of Jordan.

Mr. Barhoum feels that while the peace effort is in many ways "futile" the Jordanian leadership is not "wrong" in showing its willingness to talk to the Israelis. "It's good that the government is showing everybody that we are willing to make peace with the Israelis if they give us back what they took illegally," he says.

"Let the Jordanian government go to the peace talks and say we gave peace a chance. If and when Israel says 'no land for peace,' then the issue is closed," Mr. Awni Fasha says.

"When another war comes as a result of continued Israeli occupation then the Arabs will be able to say 'we tried peace,'" adds Mr. Fasha.

If the impending talks fail, those interviewed said, Islamic fundamentalists as well as radical nationalist parties will

eventually win the hearts and support of Arab masses.

"Those who oppose the peace talks will win ground if the peace talks fail," said Mr. Hamdi Nsour. "The Islamic and other radical parties do not want peace with Israel; they want to liberate all of Palestine and that cannot be done except through war even through war seems way off after the defeat of Iraq," says Mr. Nsour.

"But if the talks break down because Israel won't give up the 1967 land for peace, then a renewed hatred of the Israelis will give all radical parties a boost."

Massoud Hashim, a retired professor of political science, says:

"If there is no solution that is at least half acceptable to the Arabs during this peace conference, then there will be a sharp rise in support of the fundamentalist movements across the Arab World. Desperate people, who have no hope left, often turn to religion."

Islamists, which hold the single largest number of seats in the Jordanian Parliament, maintain that nothing less than the whole of Palestine must be returned to Arab rule if justice is to be done.

The Muslim Brotherhood, the biggest party amongst the Islamists, has refused to participate in the government of Mr. Taher Masi and refuses to have anything to do with the proposed peace process.

While many Jordanians are of Palestinian origin, a recent survey conducted by a University of Yarmouk professor indicated that there are some differences in attitudes and opinions between Jordanians and Palestinians on the peace process and the future of the occupied territories.

The study conducted in early summer consisted of interviews with 2,000 people across Jordan.

The study, conducted by Dr. Farouk Hlaleh Juma, indicated that over 50 per cent of those asked believed that the Palestinian issue was closer than it had ever been to being solved peacefully.

Over sixty per cent of those asked linked the interest of the Western World to solve the Arab-Israeli problem to the allied role in the Gulf war.

While the Yarmouk University's questionnaire differed from that of the Jordan Times, a question pertaining to the ability of the U.S. government to impose its own interpretation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 indicated the same amount of pessimism over the success of the peace conference.

Only twenty per cent of those asked in the first survey said that they believed that the U.S. was willing to put pressure on Israel to solve the Palestinian problem within the framework of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

House approves loan, VAT laws

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament debated a \$6 million loan from Belgium to the Kingdom in terms of its importance to the national economy and its impact on the volume of the country's foreign debt.

Several members took the floor directing questions to Finance Minister Basel Jarrah about the projects on which the loan will be spent and the reasons for obtaining such a loan.

A law on the loan was later approved by Parliament in the form it was presented by the government.

Belgium is lending Jordan \$6 million to be paid over 30 years, with a 10-year grace period, at an

interest rate of two per cent.

Mr. Jarrah told the House that the loan was needed to provide the country with foreign exchange that would help boost the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. He said 80 per cent of the loan was a grant.

The minister said that the Belgian loan would serve its purpose at this particular stage.

The session, which was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Suheimat and several Cabinet members, approved an amendment to the value added tax (VAT) law of 1991 after slight changes to it.

The government said that the

law was needed to ensure extra revenues and cover the deficit in the 1991 fiscal budget.

The amendment, it said, exempts certain basic commodities from tax so that their prices can be accessible to the low-income groups. The amendment also provides exemptions from the airport departure tax for diplomatic missions and guests of the Jordanian government as well as tourist groups.

According to the government, the VAT law was bound to secure extra revenues, estimated in millions of dinars, which would enable the treasury to meet its pressing obligations.

Gulf expatriates help real estate boom

AMMAN (J.T.) — The local market is currently witnessing a real estate boom following a quiet period resulting from the Gulf crisis and its adverse consequences on the Jordanian economy, according to the head of the Jordanian Union of Construction Materials Manufacturers Yousef Huneiti.

The renewed activity coincided with the return to Jordan of thousands of expatriates from the Gulf and the growing need for housing units, said Mr. Huneiti in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Huneiti compared the present period to that witnessing an economic boom in the early 70s and said that the boom could last until the end of the present century.

"Life is returning to normal after the end of the Gulf crisis and thousands of Jordanian ex-

patriates are now investing in real estate like lands and housing units and flats," Mr. Huneiti said.

"The construction work in Jordan was halted during the Gulf crisis, but in the early summer large numbers of people started a feverish search for land and real estate," said Mr. Huneiti.

He said construction firms have lately increased their activities to create more homes for people at a time when Jordan has started witnessing a real housing crisis, with a sharp rise in the rate of rents and the cost of flats.

"Many of the expatriates have now decided to build their own homes instead of paying a very high rent, thus causing the price of land to rise sharply," Mr. Huneiti added.

"The increase in the construction operations led to the disappearance of cement, tiles and bricks from the market and the

emergence of cement in the black market," Mr. Huneiti pointed out. He said the brick factories had resumed their full operations despite lack of sufficient Jordanian workers after the Ministry of Labour had placed restrictions on the non-Jordanian labourers.

Mr. Huneiti said that stone quarries and factories are now exporting stone in large quantities to the United Arab Emirates. He said that exports are expected to increase in the near future.

Last April Mr. Huneiti said that the restrictions imposed on non-Jordanians had made available 7,000 job-vacancies at factories manufacturing tiles, bricks and stone for building, and he invited Jordanians to come forward and take over the jobs.

Before the crisis, Mr. Huneiti said Jordan used to export construction materials products worth JD 100 million to the Gulf.

Study to assess nutrition situation

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Having jolted the Jordanian society with the revelation late last year that over one million Jordanians live under the poverty line, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has undertaken moves to assess the threat and effects of malnutrition among Jordanian children at a national level.

"There are many indirect indicators that malnutrition is prevalent in many parts of Jordan," according to Nigel Fisher, deputy regional director of UNICEF for the Middle East and North Africa.

Hospitals in the Kingdom are reporting an increase in the number of low-weight births as well as cases of malnourishment, mostly among the rural population, particularly in the south, he added in an interview with the Jordan Times.

Malnutrition, which hampers the natural intellectual and physical development of the child from the very early years, is not a new phenomenon in Jordan, but there is a sense of urgency to address the problem now before it gets beyond control.

A survey undertaken by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health with a target audience of 12,000, scheduled to be completed by November this year, is expected to offer a clear picture of the extent of malnutrition among Jordanian children, particularly that it will be the first study of its kind in Jordan since 1963, Mr. Fisher said.

"We have yet to see any indication to change our earlier assessment of the situation," he said referring to the UNICEF finding last year that between 130,000 and 360,000 Jordanians were living in "absolute poverty" in addition to the one million who live under the "poverty" line — average families with monthly income of less than JD 89 determined as just enough to meet the basic food needs of its members.

Official Jordanian statistics indicated that 23 per cent of the three-million plus population remained under the poverty line in 1987, "even before the devaluation of the dinar, the economic restructuring programme and the impact of the Gulf crisis," Mr. Fisher noted.

About 2,600 children in 14 communities in the southern regions of Jordan are benefiting from a UNICEF nutrition programme — implemented in cooperation with the Queen Alia Fund — which offers monthly food packages made up of sufficient nutritional value.

The package contains

cooking oil, milk, canned meat and chicken, eggs, carbohydrates, biscuits, juices, lentils and pasta products.

The distribution system takes into consideration that the food aid will not be limited to the beneficiary child alone at the consumption end, Mr. Fisher said. "It is understood that the entire family will be the consumers," he said. Every eligible child in the target communities gets the package regardless of the number of beneficiary children in one single family, he explained.

But the programme represents only a fraction of what needs to be done, in view of the fact that as many as 150,000 children could be under threat of malnutrition, said Mr. Fisher.

UNICEF alone cannot shoulder the responsibility of such a magnitude, and Mr. Fisher hopes that once the findings of the survey are known, programme could be undertaken to launch a national campaign to address the problem.

The impact of poverty also extends to hospitals and schools and the influx of over a quarter million Jordanian expatriates — including 70,000 children — who have returned from the Gulf states has placed additional demands on the infrastructure of the health and education services, he noted.

In addition to vaccines and oral rehydration salts to treat diarrhoea cases, UNICEF provided the Ministry of Health with large quantities of essential medicine — left-overs from consignments sent here to help evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq at the height of the Gulf crisis — but there remains a "critical shortage of essential drugs," Mr. Fisher said.

In the realm of education, UNICEF is extending help to the Ministry of Education through improving sanitation conditions in schools and supplying "basic materials."

But, Mr. Fisher restated, UNICEF contributions to nutritional, educational and health programmes in Jordan are nowhere near the actual needs of the Kingdom, which has to shoulder the lion's share of the responsibility through comprehensive policies and implementation.

UNICEF, he said, finds it very positive that the Jordanian budget for 1991 has in fact boosted spending in the health and education sectors.

"Social services are the first to be reduced in situations of financial crisis," he said. "It is very encouraging for us to note that the government has increased its allocation for health and educational services. But a lot remains to be done."

Children's congress starts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A children's congress which entails a number of cultural and recreational activities has started, with the first event organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) at the Royal Cultural Centre attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

Children from Jordan, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine and Tunisia, who arrived in Amman Tuesday, will have a week-long programme which entails, among other things, visits to Jordanian households, tours of archaeological and touristic sites and attendance of various cultural performances.

The congress initiated in 1980 after the Amman Arab summit conference, brings together children from various parts of the Arab World in a bid to help boost cultural interaction among Arab countries.

Through their shared experiences during the activities, discussions and visits, the Arab children are encouraged to appreciate more fully the contemporary challenges and the ancient bonds of culture and understanding that are common to all Arab people, according to a NHF statement.

Nearly 600 Arab children have so far taken part in the annual events held in Jordan since 1980.

Jordan, Syria discuss cooperation in agriculture

AMMAN (J.T.) — Officials from the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) and a delegation representing the Syrian Farmers Union Wednesday held here talks on cooperation between agricultural cooperatives.

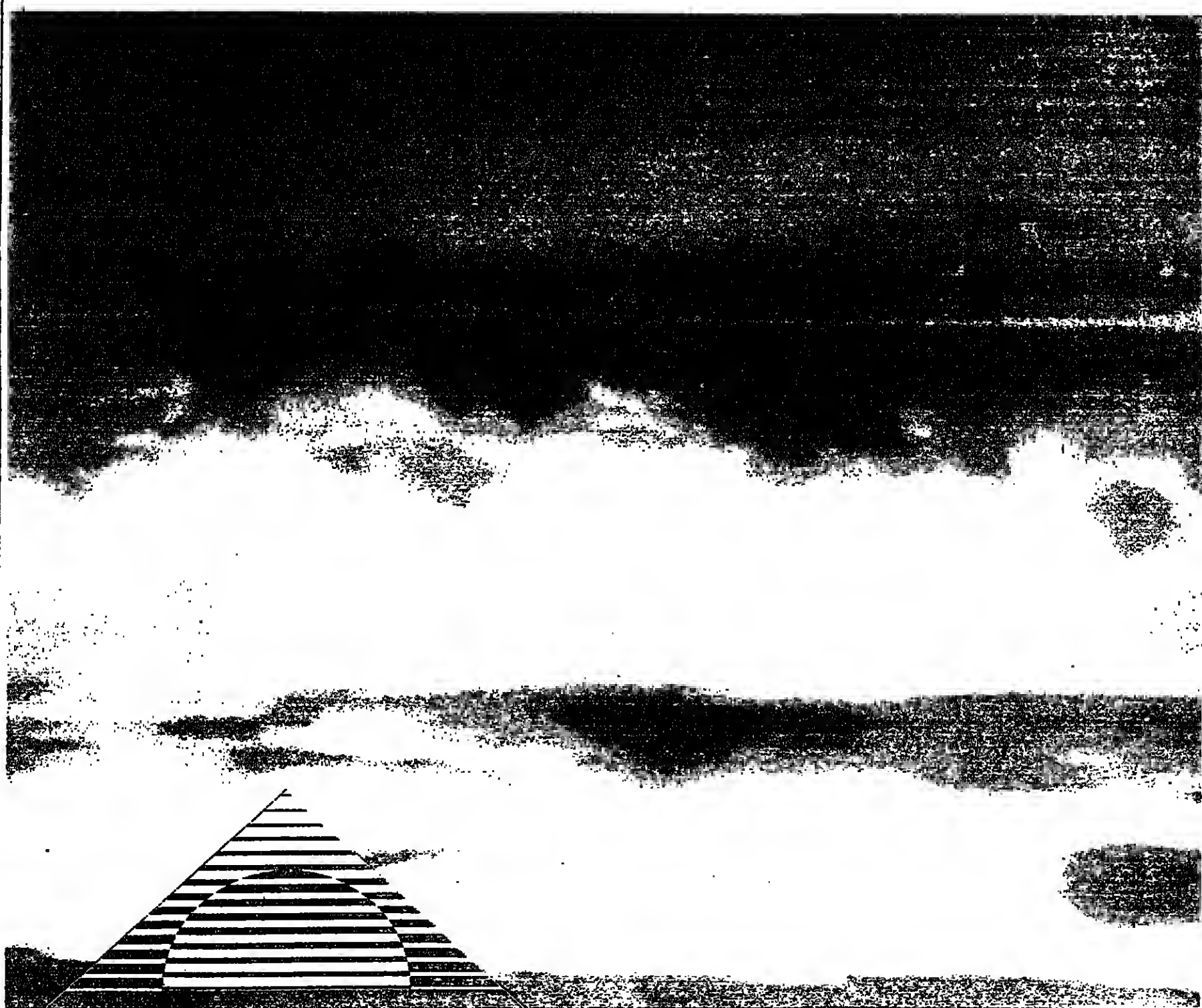
Among the topics discussed was the question of marketing Jordanian and Syrian agricultural products in either country and bartering between Jordan and Syria taking into account surpluses during various agricultural seasons.

The two sides also reviewed constraints impeding cooperation. JCO board Chairman Jamal Al Bdour led the Jordanian side. The Syrian side was led by Shibli Nasser, head of the Syrian Farmers Union Marketing Bureau.

The Syrian side was briefed by Mr. Al Bdour about the JCO's activities and plans and the organisation's contributions to the Jordanian national economy.

The Syrian experiment in agricultural cooperatives was explained at the meeting.

Under a general umbrella of the Jordan-Syrian Higher Joint Committee, Damascus and Amman have joint economic projects and maintain close cooperation in industry, agriculture, tourism and other fields.



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Commitments, commitments!

THE ISRAELI foreign minister, David Levy, said yesterday the U.S. administration would not make any commitments to the Arab World which run counter to the understandings the Americans have reached with Israel's government with regard to the Middle East negotiating process.

According to a picture Levy painted to Knesset members and Israeli journalists, these commitments include an American promise to refrain from a dialogue with the PLO, which "would not be a partner" in negotiations. They also entail a promise that there is more than one interpretation of U.N. Resolution 242 and a pledge from the Bush administration not to allow the Security Council to take up issues linked to the peace process as long as the negotiations continue.

The other commitments, according to Levy, pertain to resumption of Soviet diplomatic relations with Israel, to not removing Syria from the list of states that support terrorism and to keeping an old American pledge (made by former President Gerald Ford) to take into "due account Israel's security needs" when negotiations are underway over the Golan Heights.

If the Israeli foreign minister's public statements are to be believed, a simple deduction would lead us to look at other commitments which the Americans did not or would not make. On the issue of East Jerusalem, its future and its Arab representation, James Baker apparently made no commitments to the Israelis, leaving open to conjecture the question of whether an Arab Jerusalemite would eventually join the Palestinian-Jordanian delegation to peace talks. The Americans do still believe that East Jerusalem is occupied territory, even though they stress that the city should "stay united." It is significant therefore that the Israelis, notwithstanding their rhetoric that Jerusalem is not negotiable, could not pin the U.S. to any pledge or promise on the Holy City as they reportedly were able to do on the dialogue with the PLO. The same thing apparently applies to the rest of the occupied territories. Here too lies a significant fact in that the Americans have probably been more forthcoming with the Arabs than with the Israelis in their own interpretation of resolutions 242 and 338. By eliciting an understanding with the U.S. that there is more than one interpretation of those resolutions, the Israelis are leaving the door open for themselves to argue endlessly at the peace conference about whether they should withdraw or not. But it is a game that is likely to backfire on them, short of the talks collapsing one minute after they start.

The Israelis, on the other hand, could have asked the Americans to rule out the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state or a confederation with Jordan as a precondition for talks. Moreover, they could have insisted on banishing the PLO from the surface of the earth. But the reality of the situation is such that the Israelis cannot ask for the moon and have it delivered by the Americans.

As it is, the Americans gave too much to Shamir government.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i daily said Wednesday that the United States has succeeded in transforming the United Nations into an organisation that has been originally designed to ensure world peace and security into an inquisition court charged with taking one decision after another against the Iraqi people and condemning them to death. The U.S. has also succeeded in transforming the four major powers at the Security Council into a group of small nations, especially the Soviet Union and China which have become more or less like the banana republics, applauding all that the U.S. administration says or does, the paper said. As the Security Council members took a decision of not discussing the lifting of the economic embargo on Iraq, the Islamic foreign ministers gathered at Istanbul followed suit and kept aloof from any discussions related to the embargo or saving their Muslim brothers and sisters from death, the paper noted. It said that the Iraqi children, women and the sick continue to cry out for help in face of the creeping famine, and death while the assassins continue to brag about human rights and justice and secretly concoct new plots in order to humiliate the Arabs and Muslims. The paper said such actions and such humiliations to the Arab and Islamic nation can only drive the Arabs and Muslims to prepare to take revenge on the assassins and those depriving the innocent civilians of the right to live in peace.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that the participation of the PLO in the coming peace negotiations should not be subject to Israel's objection because the PLO is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. If peace is to be achieved, there must not be any objection to the Palestinians choosing their PLO representatives to take part in the negotiations, the paper stressed. It also noted that the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker—who has concluded several shuttle visits to the Middle East must have realised by now that it is Israel which is obstructing his moves and not the Arabs or the Palestinians. Mr. Baker must have realised that Israel's impossible conditions are delaying the work for peace and that these conditions contradict with the international legitimacy, the paper noted. Israel's conditions are in fact a sign that the Jewish state is not keen on reaching peace and is bent on expanding in Arab land in Palestine whose people cry out for justice and want to send their representatives to the peace negotiations to end Israel's occupation of Arab land, the paper added. His Majesty King Hussein, in his interview with ABC Television Network reaffirmed the need for Israel to withdraw from the occupied part of the city of Jerusalem because, he said, it was occupied in the 1967 war, the paper noted. In order that the international legitimacy can be implemented, all parts of Arab land occupied by Israel by force should be evacuated, the paper added. It said in the coming negotiations the PLO should be a full partner in order to re-demand the rights of the Palestinian people.

Hamadi: Western pressure strengthening Iraqi leadership; no need to assess Iraq's invasion of Kuwait

Following is an interview conducted by Lami Andoni with Iraqi Prime Minister Saadoun Hamadi on the eve of the first anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait:

Question: What is the leadership's assessment a year after Iraq went to Kuwait? Was there a reassessment of the action? Do you think it was a mistake, at least from a tactical point of view? Could you have avoided going into Kuwait?

Answer: I really do not prefer to talk about the past, for many reasons. To begin with, we have been very candid about the issue and put forward all of our arguments concerning its various aspects. I do not think that there has been any ambiguity that would prompt us to clarify our position. Secondly, our opinion remains the same: There has been no change in our opinion that warrants explanation. If there are people who disagree with our opinion, this is normal. I personally think that talking about the past is an academic exercise. We are better off discussing the present and the future... The United Nations Security Council has adopted resolutions. Regardless of what we really think about these resolutions or whether we are satisfied with them or not, and regardless of our opinion, we have accepted them. If the issue is whether the resolutions were fair or not, we do have an opinion about that. But if the question concerns our acceptance of these resolutions, we have accepted the resolutions. We are implementing all of the resolutions, no more and no less. We believe that (for the sake of) Arab Iraqi interests we should not talk about the past. But to discuss the present and the future does not mean that when the dust settles we will not have a reassessment of everything. My observation is that Western journalists and media deliberately focus on the past (so as) to drag us into saying something that could be used (against us) in a way to justify claims that Iraq is not abiding by the Security Council resolutions. This is why I prefer not to talk about the past.

Q: But these questions are also being asked by the Arab people, especially the masses who supported Iraq. They feel that there are many gaps and many questions that remain unanswered. Many of Iraq's supporters now feel that Iraq was baited into a trap. Why did Iraq withdraw prior to the Jan. 15 deadline if it had ended up withdrawing later?

A: We are sure that there was a plot against Iraq. We have talked about that over and over again. There was evidence that the war was deliberate against us. I have written five articles about the subject... (at this point he turned around and picked Salinger's book from a table behind his desk). Although I disagree with this book's interpretation and there are many errors in it, the main theme of this book is that the war did not start from a vacuum. There were motives behind launching the war against Iraq, including the conspiracy against us and attempts to destroy (this country) by all means because it had emerged victorious and strong from its war with Iran.

They (the West) were annoyed by Iraq's clear and unequivocal policy towards the Palestinian cause, and by the Iraqi determination to adhere to an independent foreign policy. This is very clear. But as to the questions concerning the events that led up to the withdrawal and other issues pertaining to the same theme. We have not so far made a technical and military reassessment of what had happened. We do think that at this stage such a reassessment is irrelevant. We think it is a technical question.

Q: But the main question concerns the political decision to withdraw. What happened in the last 48 hours? Is it true that you thought that the allies would not launch the ground battle if you agreed to pull out from Kuwait?

A: I have already said that I do not want to discuss these issues now.

Q: Since the ceasefire the Iraqi leadership has vowed to carry out democratisation in the country. So far people here do not feel that there have been concrete steps towards political openness. Why is the process so slow?

A: It is inaccurate that there have been no concrete steps (towards democratisation). In fact an extremely important step has been achieved but has not been disclosed and announced yet. I am referring to the parties' law. After the end of our war with Iran we formulated a parties' law and concept for pluralism in Iraq. The aim was to transform the revolutionary (government) institutions into constitutional institutions. The leadership had then vigorously worked on the

parties' law in accordance with a decision taken in the eighties. But the war with Iran hindered the process. When the war came to an end a new parties' law and a draft press law were formulated. The two laws constituted an important step towards the development of our institutions. The Gulf crisis, however, again interrupted the process. Everything came to a halt. After the end of the crisis and the rebellion the emphasis shifted again to the democratisation process and the need to move from revolutionary system to a constitutional system—I refer here to the form of institutions. After the crisis the parties law was reviewed. As a result of this revision, a substantive modification was made on the previous draft which was formulated after the Iraqi-Iranian war. But we still have another important issue to tackle which has not been finalised yet—the question of negotiations with the Kurdish parties. The negotiations have gone a long way but they have not concluded yet. Consequently we have preferred that the parties' law be formulated and readied. I mean that the issue (the parties' law) is linked with the conclusion of the negotiations with the Kurdish parties. This is why the law has not been ratified or announced yet. But the parties' law has been formulated and all of the legislative steps have been taken to put it into effect. This is certainly a step towards democratisation that cannot be underestimated. The same applies to the constitution which was also drawn up after the end of the war with Iran. The constitution is also being studied again in the same direction. These are not steps to be underestimated.

Q: What are the changes and modifications on the parties' law? How will they affect political life in this country? Can you cite any specific modifications?

A: They are related to the issue of pluralism. The (old) law, which had been drafted after the war with Iran, has certainly been developed. The modifications have been drawn up as a result of consultations with other political trends.

Q: Could you be more specific? Do the modifications include less restrictions on the political parties that will be allowed?

A: I do not think that it is appropriate to talk about the details now. As you can see, the country is passing through (difficult) conditions. It is good and fruitful for us to consider and to discuss issues like the constitution, the parties' law and pluralism even though we are facing difficult conditions such as the economic embargo and the fact that the dialogue with the Kurdish parties has not been finalised.

All I can say that the development of the parties' law has been very positive.

Q: What is really delaying a final agreement with the Kurdish parties? Is it differences over the concept of pluralism? Kurdish leaders have said that they have submitted a paper that outlined their own understanding of pluralism. Where have the negotiations reached?

A: It is true that negotiations with the Kurdish parties have taken a longer period than expected. But taking into account the issues involved and the prevailing conditions more time was needed.

Q: Again, can you be more specific? What are the major differences...?

A: We have to remember the backdrop to the negotiations. Throughout the previous period we have been fighting (each other). Thus we have not started from a peaceful point for the process to be an ordinary one. There were further complications that have been imposed by the American aggression, the internal sabotage activities which had followed, the external pressures being exerted on Iraq and the economic embargo. If we start with such a background it is only natural to expect such a delay.

You also have to remember that we have to tackle many issues at the same time. We have tackled the problem of the international embargo, security, how to deal with the Security Council resolutions and many other important issues. If they (the negotiations) were conducted under different circumstances, it would have taken less time. What is really important is that there is a continuous progress, and this is what counts.

Q: But how has the leadership's view changed, if it has, about the role of the Kurdish parties, which have always been accused of being manipulated by

foreign governments and now that they are here in Baghdad, negotiating with the government?

A: The discussions with all of the political trends in the north of the country aim at finding a new common ground or establishing new principles that will be acceptable to them. The important thing is that we are confident that there is a genuine desire (on the part of the Kurdish parties) to find a nationalist solution for the problem that will preserve national unity. For our part, we cannot but welcome such a position by the Kurds. We cannot but accept such a nationalist attitude. If we choose to allow the past to affect our judgement of the present or of the future, then we shall have a complicated future and complicated present. We have to look forward to the future. Regardless of the past we want to reach an agreement on the basis of principles. Our assessment is that their (the Kurdish parties) position has been positive.

Q: It seems that the situation in the north is relatively clearer than in the south. Do you think that the unrest in the south created or deepened sectarianism among the Shiites, especially that the information available suggests that in addition to the Iranian role there were also (anti-government) demonstrations in the south? Do you think that this discontent could be transformed into sectarian sedition or strengthen the Iranian influence on the Iraqi Shiites?

A: First and foremost you have to remember that we have gone through very difficult times. Iran had tried to exploit these hardships to incite people and nourish sectarian sentiments. People were suffering from the war. Public services were paralysed by the allied bombardment. There was no communication. Electric plants were destroyed. Those were all important factors that could not but create (political) confusion among some people. Moreover, in every society there are people who are impatient, weak, or people who harbour sectarian inclinations. There were also those who were mainly influenced by the pressures of the hardships. Those were factors which could not but influence people who slipped and deviated from the nationalist path. There was those who deviated because they had illusions. But as soon as the reconstruction started, public services started being restored, the majority of those people who took part in those demonstrations admitted their mistake.

There was definitely a moving force behind what had happened in the south and there were tools used by this force. It is doubtless to say that the moving force in the south was foreign. The tools were both foreign and domestic. I have already explained the problems which had helped in finding the internal (domestic) tools. We are still tackling these problems so that what happened will not be repeated again.

Q: But do you think that the unrest in the south has deepened sectarianism among the Iraqi Shiites or has the Iranian influence been strengthened in the south?

A: No, we do not believe that they (the Iranians) have succeeded in doing that. To the contrary, during the Iranian-Iraqi war Iran used to address our people through its media (it had Arabic television and radio services). It used to try to draw to our people an idealistic model of the Iranian regime. It was trying to exploit people's religious feelings and principles to reach out to the people. Our people did not know of Iran except what they heard from its media and the confrontation at front: An army facing another army. But during (last spring's) events our people had a first-hand and tangible experience with Iran, for they (the Iranians and pro-Iranian elements) had controlled the cities (in the south) for a period of time, and our people saw their deeds and how they dealt with people. In other words our people had the chance to experience, albeit for a short period of time, the Iranian brand of Islamic system. Or at least they experienced a microcosm (nawonazaj mousaghhar) or a mini-model of the Iranian regime. Our people had never seen such thing first-hand before.

For example, when the Iranian agents controlled Karbala for 13 days and perpetrated what they did in 13 days their practices were incredible and unprecedented in terms of repression, savagery and ugliness. Therefore the events did not succeed in forging closer ties between our people and the Iranian regime... and did not create a sectarian problem in Iraq. The events had exposed the reality of that regime....

Q: That brings back to the war.

What did the Iraqi leadership really expect from Iran? Last week President Saddam Hussein described Iran as the poisonous dagger. Does that mean that the Iranian leaders had made to you promises before the war that they had reneged on after the war?

A: I will not go into details. But the Iranian position (before the war) was mainly dictated by the Iranian people's sentiments. They had to accommodate the popular sentiments (in Iran). If they did not the Iranian people would have deplored any different position that would have contradicted the anti-imperialist slogans that the Iranian regime had put forward. The Iranian leadership could not then swim against the popular current; and consequently, their position in general was positive. That positive Iranian position had then broken the psychological barrier (between Iran and Iraq) and we (both governments) became close. It seems now that at the time when they were taking such a position positive in appearance they were secretly planning something completely different, something contrary to their public statements that they were not ready to exploit the conditions against Iraq. What happened later was exactly the opposite.

Q: I want to go back to the issue of democracy. Nobody expects big changes in Iraq overnight, but the impressions that journalists get here is that so far the leadership's promises of democracy have not been very successful in breaking the barrier of fear. Is the leadership aware of or agrees with this conclusion? How do you explain this phenomenon of fear here?

A: We believe that it is just a matter of time and such issues will be solved. Can't you see changes in the Iraqi press? The process will continue. I do not see a reason for fear, except for imagining and that some memories of the violent events which took place immediately after the war are still very fresh in people's minds. The memories of fighting, using arms and other actions, are still there. Perhaps these memories create this fear that you are talking about. Remember that there are other serious problems that create psychological impacts on people: First and foremost the economic embargo against Iraq. I do not think that the democratisation process is slow; it is just that the leadership has too many things to handle at once—things that are caused by the economic embargo. But I believe that in time things will become clearer.

Q: The West, especially the U.S., has made it clear that the economic embargo will not completely be lifted until the regime and President Saddam Hussein are out. Talking into consideration the international political isolation of Iraq, what is the standing of the regime and its chances for survival as you see it?

A: The regime is strong and will survive. The (Americans) may be determined but that does not mean that they shall attain everything they like. In our opinion the coordinates indicate that the situation is progressing in our favour. If you compare the situation today with the situation last week you see a constant progress—on all levels. They simply cannot achieve everything they want. For example as time elapses, we are not the only ones to suffer from the international embargo; other parties are suffering and they have already started to voice their resentments. There are more voices and demands now for an end to the embargo. Arguments are raised by many against the sanctions and more and more people (in the world) are saying that there is no justification for keeping the embargo after the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Q: Do you mean to say you believe that time is in your favour?

A: It is definitely not against us. Q: But the pressures are mounting. There are almost daily accusations that Baghdad is not fully abiding by the Security Council resolutions concerning its mass destruction weapons.

A: (Smiling in a dismissive manner): We do not believe that there is any ambiguity regarding Iraq's adherence to the Security Council resolutions. Our decision to implement the resolutions is irreversible. We are implementing the resolutions. I believe that eventually they will have to reconsider and change their position.

Q: You seem convinced that time is in your favour, but how will these pressures affect the Iraqi people who are being told by the U.S. government—that the situation will only change when the president is removed.

A: The Iraqi people themselves, throughout the crisis—and this was reported by western

journalists—have expressed support for the regime. I believe that the Iraqi people support the president and cling to him more than ever. They are aware that the president has been the primary factor in keeping the country's unity. The president has been the primary factor in the reconstruction process and the restoration of public facilities and services after the war. I personally believe that the vast majority of our people support the president. And if the Americans will continue to use this language, the only reaction here will be the reinforcement of national identity, commitment and unity. For each and every nationalist Iraqi realises that the American language is directly encroaching upon and violating Iraqi dignity and Iraqi national will. In fact the more the Americans keep up their rhetoric the clearer it becomes to the Iraqi people that the target is the patriotism and nationalism of the president. This will only reinforce the president's national credentials and his popularity. It will reinforce a positive and nationalist position even among those who differ in their opinion or interpretations (with the regime). Some are even saying that they now support the regime because it is being targeted for its nationalist positions.

Q: In your statements and a series of articles you wrote, you indicated that Iraq can still maintain its pan-Arab nationalist position despite the destruction of its military ability. Do you think Iraq can play the same role in Arab politics that it was playing prior to the war, or what role do you envisage for Iraq?

A: First of all I have to clarify that Iraq had not been trying to play the role of the leader of the Arab World. Iraq was trying to get the Arab countries together, or some of the Arab countries, in the nationalist direction. Therefore Iraq took the initiative and was persistent in returning Egypt to the Arab fold. It was also persistent in efforts to strengthen the Arab League and took part in the Arab Cooperative Council... Iraq was not trying to take the lead... but was preaching principles of an independent Arab foreign policy. Iraq has not changed: It still believes in the same goals and principles. It still believes in the liberation of Palestine, in social justice, in social development, in setting up a new fairer economic system that caters to the needs of the poorer working

classes. Iraq still believes in good relations among Arab states, in a strong Arab League, in joint Arab action. Nothing has altered in our position. What has changed is the means and not the goals or principles. Iraq has now less economic and financial means but its position remains the same. But even with the means available we are confident that this line, the independent, nationalist trend, represents the future of the Arab World—not any other.

Q: But practically Iraq's role in enforcing such goals have been weakened while the other camp has prevailed. What role can Iraq play under these conditions, if any?

A: I believe that if the position is to be judged from the viewpoint of political principles, Iraq's standing has not been weakened but has been strengthened. These are not just words, but the war as we see it Iraq has paid the price for its political principles and has not succumbed. We have paid a price but we still are committed to the same positions. It is true that the U.S. influence in the region is stronger than it was before. The growing influence of the U.S. in the region and in the world is primarily the result of the end of the cold war and the rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union. But eventually this growing influence will backfire, for the U.S. is trying and will continue to try to monopolise the world. The Americans will not be fair or just in dealing with the world's nations. We are witnessing a return to old political and economic colonialist practices and policies. In the past the competition between the U.S. and the Soviet Union had served to curb colonialist practices... but they (the Americans and the West) are reverting to these practices.

What will these practices lead to? They will only lead to provoking the world's nations. We do not believe that eventually the world's nations will submit to such arrogant, tyrannical practices. The Iraqis and the Palestinians are already experiencing this American tyranny every day. Other nations will also suffer and will reject these practices. The return to colonialist methods will revive nationalist resistance; The reaction of the U.S. to this resistance will not be peaceful but very violence... This is why we do not agree that American influence will bring about peace to the

(Continued on page 5)

LETTERS

A different situation

To the Editor:

IT is usually with deep respect that I read the Jordan Times Opinions and Analysis page, comfortable in the feeling that that particular page carries opinions from within and without the country, giving me pleasure and satisfaction. Not so when I read the Jordan Times editorial of Aug. 6, 1991, entitled "Absent whips are missed." It was so bitter and heated that I had to break the sugar quota of my morning coffee and stick my head out of the window for cool air.

First, second, and third reading of "Absent whips are missed" invariably lead to one conclusion: Members of the Lower House of Parliament killed the Investment Law, Jordan will thus not be marketed as an investment haven, and the economic problems and unemployment are here to stay.

No, sir, the situation was and is entirely different from what your editorial portrayed it to be. The investment law was passed and approved in major areas such as industry, agriculture, housing, tourism, and health, where billions could be invested. Certain amendments, however, had to be introduced specifically in the areas of mineralogy, education, media, communications, and international programmes. And for a good reason: The safety and security of our national identity.

Lower House members present at the House session on Aug. 5 sought to assure safety on the Investment Law highway for vehicle and travellers to reach the destination of economic viability and success. Towards that end they erected road signposts and laid down guidelines imposing speed limits and advising caution here or there and mandating drivers to even yield at crossroads. All to the benefit and wellbeing of co-travellers and to assure safe and smooth progress towards, hopefully, a common goal—that of a healthy interaction with the economies of others, be they natural persons, legal entities, world bodies, or governments. The last thing in our minds was to leave the investment law vehicle wide open for each and every one with legal tender to jump in, weighing it down and bringing its onward movement to a virtual standstill. Not all investors, I am sure you agree, are above suspicion. Human nature, being what it is, some would not hesitate to exploit road conditions turns to realise their hidden agenda. Never mind travellers marking time in the meanwhile.

With the position of the Lower House members shot down, the editorial next took on the government parliamentary group in the Lower House and failed the government for not taking the whip to that group and lamented its lack of action to rein in cabinet ministers to vote in its favour. Whip, did you say? Whatever happened to democracy, free expression of opinion in and out of the government? Power whips are welcome to be missed. Not so democracy.

To American dollars, German marks, French and Swiss francs, Japanese yens, etc., we say welcome in the service of our economy, to alleviate unemployment and economic problems and to bring about prosperity for all nations.

Finally, let me assure you that comprehension of Jordan economic reality was the one factor that dictated introduction of the said amendments, not to register political gains, but to assure that the rescue operation does not turn into a gullotine for the nation's very identity through uncontrolled investments.

Jamal A. Al Sarayrah,
Member of the Lower House,
Amman.

'2000 Years Of Colour' — a display of rich Arab heritage in Denmark

By Nur Seti

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "There is real joy in collecting. It is like a love affair. It is a passion that becomes stronger with time. In my case, it is not merely a love story between me and the costumes, it is also a personal quest for identity as a Palestinian-Jordanian-Arab woman in a changing world," said Widad Ka'war, an avid collector of Palestinian and Jordanian costumes and jewelry at an opening of an exhibition in Denmark recently.

"This collection," she continued, "is a manifestation of my relationship with the women of my country, through whom I discovered our common rich Arab heritage and problems."

Mrs. Ka'war, who has displayed her collections throughout the years in Cologne, Paris, Munich, Berlin and Tokyo has recently re-

turned from opening an exhibit at the Moesgaard Museum in Denmark — "2000 years of colour". The collection covers about 500 items from the last 100 years. "Women in the early days spent much money and long hours in preparing their dress. There are psychological reasons behind this," Mrs. Ka'war reflected. "It is all a matter of identity with the village and the area."

An understanding of equal-

ity also emerged from women's gatherings. When a girl turned 16, she was introduced to the art of embroidery, Mrs. Ka'war said. The elderly sat with the young and there was no age barrier. On the contrary, "seeing them together made me feel that this gave importance to the older women, making them feel wanted."

Similarly, it was a form of education, particularly for the young, because despite sessions of intimate gossip, they would also learn about the many perplexities of life," Mrs. Ka'war noted.

Comparing the recent embroidered dresses with the old ones, Mrs. Ka'war said it is not like it used to be. The earlier dresses were all hand-woven and hand-dyed. Furthermore, there were no borders like there are now. "Everything was produced in the area. Silk was brought in from Syria, linen from Egypt and silk threads were prepared by the Lebanese and Syrians."

Now, Mrs. Ka'war pointed out with regret, "they are machine embroidered on synthetic fabrics."

Nevertheless, the costumes currently on display in Denmark are arranged according to period. "As one moves along the room, he is taken from one year to the next, one decade succeeds the other," Mrs. Ka'war said.

The display is divided into geographical areas as well. There is a souk at the entrance and at the other end there is a shop full of traditional items. On both sides are costumes including scarves. For an extra touch, an old radio from the 1930s plays Um Kalthoum. "We had women wearing new



New cushions with traditional embroidery decorating the sofa of a Palestinian home in Amman

Palestinian dresses behind barbed wire, to give the feeling of the camps in the West Bank," Mrs. Ka'war said. "We also had a water faucet in a camp and a woman carrying tins to fill them with water. From one side of the tin, water dripped, it was very effective."

Through these messages, Mrs. Ka'war feels that more people could be reached out to this way than through politics. "People become more affected through culture, they become more involved. In this way we can also portray a good image of the Arab women" rather than the stereotype image that is projected in the West.

"Forty years ago, a relative of mine gave me two traditional costumes as a present," Mrs. Ka'war wrote in 1987. "I was already interested in the textiles and jewelry, but I never thought that one day this present would grow to be the largest collection of dresses from Palestine and Jordan."

"Back home I saw the influ-

ence of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war on the people. The beautiful picture I had of the village women coming in groups to the market in Bethlehem had vanished. Their villages were occupied and they were now settled in refugee camps away from their homes, facing a new style of life and a new camp culture," she said explaining what instigated her drive to obtain the largest collection of Arab heritage.

"This situation made me double my efforts," Mrs. Ka'war affirmed. She began collecting information through interviews with women. "A strong common bond developed between us because we both loved our heritage and felt sad because it was being shattered in the camps."

Through the interviews, Mrs. Ka'war, learnt about the women's lifestyle, their position in the family, their changing role in modern times, their attachment to their villages and heritage, the instability of their refugee camp lives, as

well as the shattering effect of any political crisis in the area on their daily life.

"In order to appreciate the costumes, it is important to understand the culture of Palestine and Jordan and the role of women in daily life," Mrs. Ka'war said.

Peasant and bedouin women played an important part in the economy. There existed a traditional and functional division of labour between the sexes. Men's and women's work complemented each other.

An example of this can be found in the production of bread, Mrs. Ka'war said. While men ploughed the land and planted wheat, women did the weeding. Men would work in harvesting and women would provide them with food and gather the harvest. Men did the thrashing, women cleaned the wheat. Men took the wheat to the mill and brought back the flour while women baked the bread. Both would then eat the bread together.

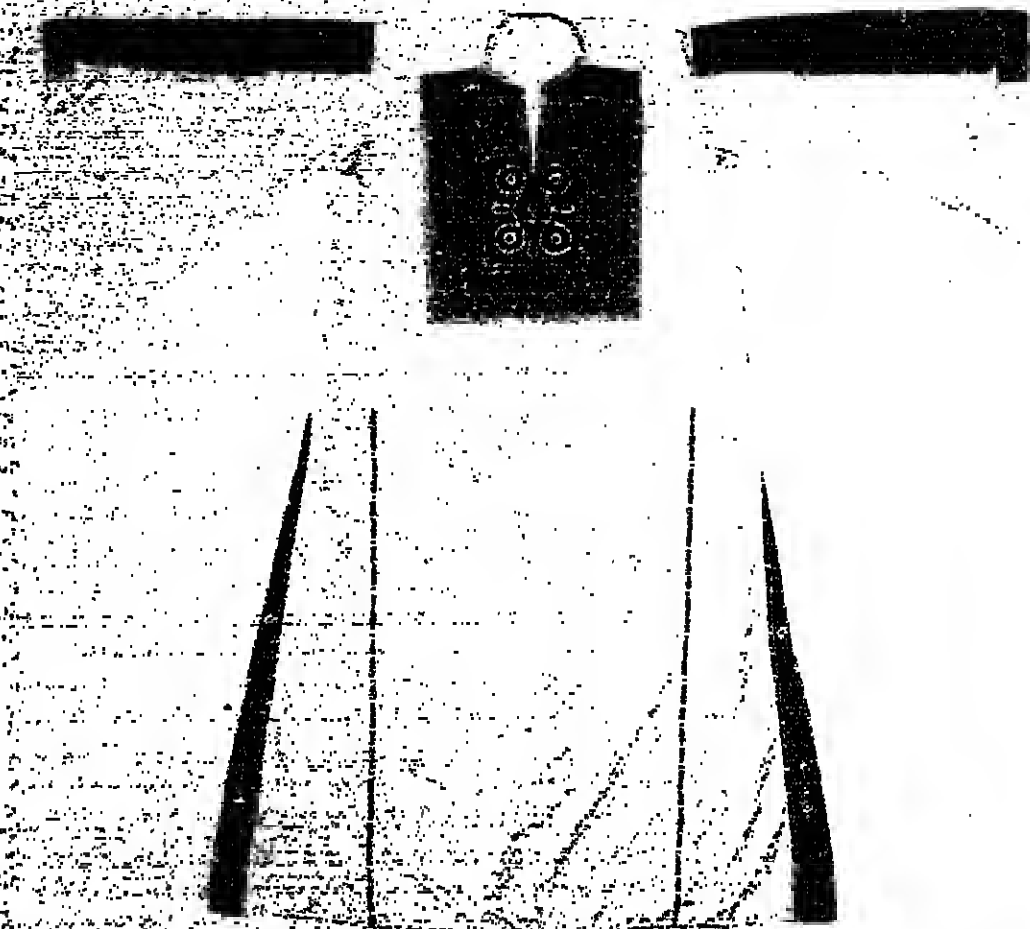
"It goes to show that men

and women worked side by side and each was very important to the other," Mrs. Ka'war said. Having learned this, "the information became as precious as the collections (of costumes) itself and I became more interested in the women than the costume," she added.

Now, when Mrs. Ka'war gives lectures during the opening of any exhibition, she chooses to concentrate more on the cultural dimensions of the dress rather than the embroidery details itself. "Most of the public are not interested in the embroidery itself," she said.

Meaningful as it is, embroidery remains best admired by those who appreciate beautiful workmanship and understood by those who have a love for embroidery.

"What I would like," Mrs. Ka'war said, "is to keep going on with the exhibitions." She hopes to have one in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Finland and Norway as well as at a few German museums.



Traditional dress from Bethlehem area, in Palestine, made of silk fabric from Syria

Princess Stephanie: I hope people will see I'm a true person

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — For a fleeting second, Princess Stephanie looks as if she will live up to her image as a spoiled jet-setter. She slouches on a sofa in her hotel suite, smoking cigarettes with a sulky expression and stretching her long legs on the coffee table.

But when she opens her mouth, the princess vanishes. She is replaced by 26-year-old Stephanie Grimaldi, who may be the daughter of Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier of Monaco but talks and acts as if she grew up in Kansas.

Though her first language is French, she speaks fluent American-accented English and calls herself "50 per cent American." She talks candidly and without pretense.

Princess Stephanie is promoting her first English-language record album, titled Simply Stephanie. Her first album was a major hit in France and a single from the album, "Inesistible," went to No. 1.

She wears a white jersey, black jeans, silver-tipped cowboy boots and sports the kind of jewelry associated more with a New Jersey mall jet than with European royalty. Chunky silver rings adorn her fingers and one thumb, with several cloth wish bracelets on her left wrist.

"The truth is that I'm a very down-to-earth person," she said. "I've been called a brat but that's an insult to my parents. They didn't raise a brat. I'm not an immature, insensitive person."

A musical career is a chance to combat that image, she says. "I'm pursuing this career as an excuse to talk about me. I want to be recognized for me," she said.

"With my songs and music, it's a way of sharing things with people that really have to do with me."



Princess Stephanie

with people that really have to do with me."

To hear her talk, the gilded life of a modern princess is more a prison than a pleasure.

"It's hard growing up in the limelight," she said. "People invent stories. They call me a man-eater. An innocent date with a friend becomes a major scandal. I don't even like all those jet-set parties."

She co-wrote the lyrics on Stephanie with her former boyfriend, Los Angeles record producer Ron Bloom. She hopes the music conveys a message.

"I get really frustrated being stuck with this image that I got when I was 18," she said. "People tend not to take me seriously. It was normal then to go out and have fun but I'm not like that anymore. Through this I hope people will see I'm a true person, not just this flake."

Even allowing for tabloid hyperbole, Princess Stephanie's past has more than fed the gossip mill. Her notoriety began on a tragic note when her mother died in a car accident after suffering an apparent stroke while driving her daughter to their palace in Monte Carlo.

"I was 17 — it was a hard age to lose her," Princess Stephanie said. "My mom was my best friend."

One of the songs on her new album, Words On The Wind is dedicated to her mother.

"I truly believe she's a part of me and that she's given me that extra confidence," Princess Stephanie said. "I hope the song is a way to help someone else who's lost a loved one."

After her mother's death, Princess Stephanie was involved with the sons of French movie stars Jean Paul Belmondo and Alain Delon. Later she took up with actor Rob Lowe, lived in Los Angeles with a nightclub owner with a criminal record and started a swimsuit com-

pany. Last year, she announced her engagement to Jean Yves Lefur with a lavish engagement party. They broke up soon after and Stephanie threatened to sue him for \$150,000 in gifts, parties and other expenses.

It's hard to square her past with the warm, likable, girl-next-door who speaks so earnestly about wanting an "identity that's not based on who my parents are."

"What am I supposed to do to stop the stories — stay locked up in my room?" she said. "Even that wouldn't work. They'll write that I'd gone into a major depression. You know, the infamous 'insider' would tell them all about it."

Princess Stephanie appears both jaded and amazed by the press coverage of her family. She rolls her eyes when pointing to a copy of the latest issue of Paris Match, which features a picture of her and her sister, Princess Caroline, on the cover.

"Here we are on the cover of one of the world's biggest magazines and we're just going shopping. Like, that's an international event?"

She is bitter, though, about how Princess Caroline, 34, has been treated since her husband, Stefano Casiraghi, was killed in a speedboat accident last fall.

"My sister lost her husband and still they had to look for negative things to write about," she said. "I wish they would just leave her alone. Sometimes it gets me real mad. This kind of stuff happens when my family is in real pain."

Yves Saint-Laurent and Christian Lacroix — 2 stars of haute couture

One has already been a member of the very exclusive club of grands couturiers for a long time. The other recently attracted considerable attention when he joined. Both of them fill the fancies of elegant women all over the world.

By Claire Thierry

PARIS — "Today, this man is purely and simply the greatest grand couturier in the world," wrote the American magazine, Harpers Bazaar. That premonition was published in 1972. In 1991, it is a fact.

This is borne out by the honours the French designer has been collecting all over the world for the last ten years: Retrospective exhibitions at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 1983, at the Palace of Fine Arts in Peking, at the Museum of Fashion Arts in Paris in 1986, in Sydney, Australia, and at the Hermitage in Leningrad in 1987. In 1985, French President Francois Mitterrand gave him the Legion of Honour and, shortly afterwards, he received the Oscar for the greatest couturier for all of his work.

This homage is paid to a talent which, according to critics and customers (including Catherine Deneuve), has never failed from one collection to another. This is borne out by the commercial good health of the YSL group which has a turnover of about 3 billion francs and is run with an iron grip by its chairman Pierre Berge.

Thanks to this support, Yves Saint-Laurent's career has followed an exemplary course. The story begins in 1958, when the young prodigy designer, who had just arrived from the colourful Algeria of his childhood,

joined the Christian Dior firm as an assistant. He became the chosen favourite and, when the couturier died, he was appointed as the artistic director of the company which, at the time, was run the Marcel Boussac, a big name in textiles.

He achieved immediate success with his first collection, revealing a personal style and, that year, presenting a fashion which was to be all the rage: The "trapeze" line. In the following years, Yves Saint-Laurent was the only person able, by instinct, to masterfully grasp and interpret the spirit of "the street". The shy and quiet avant-garde designer introduced roll-necks and leather jackets on the cat-walks. It was something unheard of in the still stilted world of haute couture. The spirit of these fashions did not appeal to Marcel Boussac but delighted women whose life-style has moved on to greater freedom.

In 1961, Yves Saint-Laurent left Dior to set up his own firm with the help of the business manager Pierre Berge and the American financier Mack Robinson. From then on, from season to season, he went from success to success, with a style marked by a rare sense of proportions and colours. Sometimes inspired by artists: The Mondrian line, Pop Art, the African line, Ballets Russes, the Scottish line (winter 91-92). Classical styles were skilfully reinterpreted: Din-



Yves Saint Laurent

ner jackets, suits, safari suits, hooded jackets and sailor-suits. Homage was paid to Picasso, Cocteau, Matisse and Van Gogh with embroidery sumptuously carried out by the Lesage company, and he also designed theatre costumes.

In 1966, he launched his collection of ready-to-wear clothes for women (Saint-Laurent Rive Gauche, on sale in 110 exclusive shops throughout the world), and then for men. There are also his furs and accessories sold under licence: Jewellery, scarves, glasses, shoes, leather goods, cosmetics and perfumes (Opium, created in 1977, is a world best-seller).

Today, Yves Saint-Laurent and Pierre Berge, who have bought up the shares of their biggest shareholders (Robinson in 1973 and Cerus in 1991) hold 46 per cent of the YSL group. The couturier is very wealthy, but he is also a generous patron and philanthropist, supporting humanitarian causes, artists and opera music.

It took Saint-Laurent thirty years to achieve all this. Is Christian Lacroix in the process of scoring the same success at a faster speed? Some strange coincidences can be noted in their careers. The



Christian Lacroix

latest arrival in haute couture made a triumphal entrance in the 80s, like an invigorating tonic in a sector in which creativity was slowly falling asleep.

Fashion writers, who are so often blase, and buyers, who are always so critical, were absolutely flabbergasted by his highly imaginative first collection. It was to hit the headlines in magazines. A new shape was born with a tight waist and short, puffy, swirling skirts, made of shimmering materials and accompanied by baroque accessories. Just like Saint-Laurent, Lacroix comes from the sunny south, from the town of Arles in Provence, where he was born in 1951. From there, he has kept his love of festivities, of dazzling colours and of the toteroes in light-catching colours.

Lacroix also started out at a grand couturier's, Patou, where, from 1982 to 1986, he created a fashion full of humour. As a result he received the "De d'Or" (golden thimble) award and some attractive offers.

Will his lightning success be as durable as that of his illustrious elder? — L'Actualite En France.

Punctuality — a mystery to all

By Maha Addasi

PEOPLE today seem to have deleted the word "punctual" from their vocabularies. Many have a dim notion of what the word means but are actively working on forgetting this meaning altogether, or so it seems. For some people who by today's standards, are "too idealistic" not being "on time" is beyond their comprehension.

One punctual person said: "I grew up in a family where punctuality was a life-or-death situation. So we would wake up six hours before our flight was scheduled to leave so that we would be at the airport four hours before boarding. Consequently when we got to our destination we were the last to get our luggage because it was placed on the plane first."

I remember vowing never to be that early for flights, when I "grew up", but now that I have a family of my own, I find myself following the same pattern. Instead of waking up six hours early I end up tossing and turning the night before and do not sleep at all.

But the fact remains that there are more people who are not punctual just because it seems to be the thing to do. "We got a phone call from friends at noon one day telling us they were going to come over to visit at four that afternoon," one woman said. "They did not show up until ten that night. We were so worried we combed the roads for them and called them at home a million times. We thought they may have had an accident. There seemed to be no other explanation. Finally when they did show up they had spent time having a picnic and had forgotten all about us. We were out sure how to act. It was almost like finding a lost child after a long search. We were not sure whether to welcome our guests or to discipline them," she said.

"It seems that whenever you make an appointment with someone, that someone is surprised when you show up on time," one man said. "The person with whom you have the appointment even acts weird, like he or she will have to change his or her plans now that you actually showed up on time," he said. "Now I make it a rule to be 30 minutes late everywhere I go. That way people don't look at me as though I am desperate for invitations, and I am punctual so they would invite me again when I walk in," he added.

"I like to make an entrance when I go to a party," one teenage girl said. "That's why I go at least one and a half hours late to a party," she continued, declining to acknowledge that one day she will get to the party and everyone would have already gone home. What an



embarrassing entrance that would make.

"I am afraid that it has become socially acceptable to say, 'I had an appointment an hour ago, I should get going,'" one man said. "I usually get to the place of the appointment and the person I have an appointment with has still not shown up. Everyone is catching up on this 'I'm late for an appointment but that's O.K.' attitude," he said.

Guest appearance

By Bill Moore

Most of the time, having visitors to stay is a pleasant experience for the hosts. But recently we had the visitor to end all visitors.

He couldn't stay at our house unless we went out and found a special kind of bed for him, we were told. So we did.

He was accompanied by an entourage of no fewer than three people whose mission in life was to wait on him hand and foot. We had to find places for them to stay, we were told. So we did.

He arrived with, of all things, an assortment of his own personal screwdrivers and, in his spare moments, proceeded to disassemble just about everything in the house. Unfortunately, his skill at taking things apart was not nearly matched by his skill at putting them back together again, so someone had to follow him round and reassemble them. So we did.

We like to take first-time visitors to a near-by country hotel for lunch. The scenery usually bowls them over. But out this fellow. We were barely on our way when he went to sleep, and he didn't wake up until we got there. He made a scene at lunch, refused to eat what had been ordered for him and insisted on eating someone else's meal. And before we could get out of the place, I caught him kissing the waitress.

He turned out to be a real conversation killer. While he slept, the rest of us spoke in hushed tones. While awake, he tended to monopolise the conversation, rattling on non-stop in a voice that demanded careful attention.

You might think we'd say, "Who needs a guest like this? We'll be glad to see him go, and we'll never invite him back." You might think that, but you'd be wrong.

He is just three years old, and he calls me Grandpa. And he can come and disassemble the whole house any time he wants.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 8

8:30 The Family Man

Pat is the new member in the firefighting team. She goes through a lot before she is fully integrated.

9:10 Outlaws

Hymn

A preacher is in grave danger, and the boys go to New York to save her and they succeed.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

Swordman Of Siena

Starring: Stewart Granger and Sylvia Koscina

A long time ago in Europe, the Spanish occupied parts of Italy. This is the story of the oppressed revolt against their oppressors.

Friday, Aug. 9

8:30 Night Court

Dans Parents

Dan once told his colleagues that his parents had died some time ago, but all of a sudden, they appear in court and Dan's embarrassed.

9:10 Shakespeare

10:00 News in English

10:20 Equaliser

End Game

Things are getting from bad to worse between the two sisters, Linda and Suzie.

Something is definitely wrong.

Saturday, Aug. 10

8:30 Kate And Allie

Reruns

9:00 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

10:00 News in English

10:30 Hiroshima out of the ashes

Sunday, Aug. 11

8:30 Yes Minister

The Bed Of Nails

The prime minister asks the minister to formulate an integrated transport policy, but who needs a bed of nails?

9:10 French Documentary

This time this interesting documentary sheds light on the CIA. It gives an account of its past activities.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Hunter

Lullaby

Hunter and his colleague apprehend the murderer, but fail to present incriminating evidence, and so a British investigator risks her life to provide the evidence.

Monday, Aug. 12

8:30 Surgical Spirit

The Holiday Job

Daniel is asking his mother to allow him to spend the

holiday abroad, but Sheila is voting against this idea. "Work and earn your own money," she says.

9:10 Murder She Wrote

Deadpan

A newspaper theatre critic is murdered. The obvious suspects would be his competitors critics. Jessica does not subscribe to this assumption.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Over My Dead Body

Tuesday, Aug. 13

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Larry buys a diamond ring for his beloved fiancée, it turns out to be fake. There is no chance to remedy the situation but to get another cheaper but real and honest ring.

8:55 Museums in Jordan

Zafer Toukan continues exploring the fabulous

Citadel Museum. This time the tour takes place inside the museum's building.

9:10 Our House

Neighbourhood Watch

The neighbourhood becomes the target of a series of thefts. So the neighbours form a group of vigilantes headed by Gus who suspects the wrong man.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Columbo

Publish or Perish

Wednesday, Aug. 14

8:30 A Kind Of Living

Vietnam

9:10 Silk Route To The Sea

10:00 News in English

10:20 French Miniseries

Le Roi Mystery

PEN PALS

To The Editor:

I write you this letter on behalf of EEPF. It is a penfriends organisation in Bulgaria. Now we are recruiting new members in our club from all over the world. We will be very grateful to you if you could publish our address in the Jordan Times.

East European Pen Pals,
P.O. Box 111,
Varna-9003,
Bulgaria

Thank you in advance!

Yours sincerely,
Emil Monov,
Chairman of EEPF.

For the love of a country

By E. Yaghi

Samih and Alice are an enchanting couple who live in the lush capital city of Albany, New York. Their hospitality is charming and ever typical of the gracious hospitality of the majority of the Arab people. Their red brick house is nestled in a quiet suburban neighbourhood with sprawling green lawns and shady trees guarded by a bent and drooping peach tree which is laden with ripe orange and pink fruit.

The Azzams are Palestinian refugees who immigrated to America about 25 years ago. Samih was born in Nazereth but was raised in Haifa. His wife, Alice, was born in Sudan because her father was practicing medicine there, but then her family moved to Yaffa, where she grew up.

After they were married, Samih and Alice lived in Haifa where they had one child. They were a happy young couple living in their own country. Then foreign Jews, armed and equipped by Britain, invaded the peaceful country. Many skirmishes and massacres occurred before the Arab-Israeli war of 1948. Alice remembers one of many terrifying nights when Jewish soldiers loaded with weapons attacked a residential neighbourhood. Samih ordered, "quick, take the boy and head for the back door. I'll hold them off here as long as I can!"

Alice ran for the back door as directed. Fortunately, Samih wasn't involved in any shooting and was able to follow his wife and son. Some of their neighbours weren't so lucky and were shot and killed. The terror went on, so Samih and his small family fled to Syria and joined one million desolate refugees who lost everything they had. For a while they lived in Syria. In Haifa, Samih had been a shipping agent and transported goods on the Mediterranean by four big vessels. For a while, Alice taught English at a girls' school and Samih worked. They later moved to Beirut where Alice taught the famous singer Fairouz. While in Lebanon the Azzams made the difficult decision to emigrate to America. By that time they had three children.

The Azzam family gradually adapted well to American life. Because their children were bilingual, they had no problem adjusting to the English language and managed to blend into a totally different way of life. But the Azzams could not forget their beloved country. Memories thrived in their hearts and minds and a garden of love and hope replaced the tragic loss of a country that had once been theirs where they were free to walk and laugh and plant dreams for their future. A tree of knowledge and curiosity grew in their minds and they were always interested in facts and information concerning the entire Middle East as well as their lost country.

The Azzam children grew up as Arab Americans but never forgot the fact that they were and are Palestinians and that Palestine is their country. That flame of hope and loss was seeded in the hearts and minds of the young Azzam children and now as adults, some of them have

strived to also understand, learn and work for the freedom of their country.

Samih and Alice are as picturesque as their house. Their gray and white hair contours their pleasant countenances and they greet all guests with warm smiles which express the love that flourishes in their hearts. Their lives have been a constant endeavour to create an understanding within the American public about the problems concerning Palestine. Often they worked tirelessly trying to promote a better understanding of not only the Palestinians, but the Arab people as well. With a sad patience Alice said: "We worked with such diligence and commitment. Whenever there was an activity or event we participated. We hosted committees and dinners, we wrote letters and more letters to the president, vice president, and congressmen about the Palestinians and the Gulf war. But all our efforts we feel, were in vain. We did not change anyone's thinking, we did not stop the war. We couldn't reach the American people the way we wanted to."

"Now we are tired of hoping, of working, of caring. We are just going to spend the rest of our lives quietly unless some opportunity arises and we feel there is a chance or hope to do something."

Both the Azzams are well read and informed. Samih, now retired, is an encyclopedia of information and facts. He is well educated about many different subjects and it seems he spends a good deal of his spare time in his hobby of reading and searching for knowledge. On the other hand, Alice is quite well informed too with a store of information. Both are avid news listeners.

One of the Azzam children, Fateh, married an American woman and has now moved back to the occupied Arab territories. He and his wife are devoted Palestinians who work for the Palestinian cause and have sacrificed their whole way of life in order to live in their country once again.

Now, some of Samih's and Alice's grandchildren live in Palestine. But what hope for the future do they have? Is there a chance for peace and justice in Palestine and the whole Middle East? Will the West continue to de-humanise Arabs and Palestinians and use them only as a means to obtain their ulterior motives? Will Samih's and Alice's grandchildren be free one day to walk again in the country of their forefathers and have the inalienable right to the pursuit of happiness? Will the days of Intifada disappear and all the tears, pain and blood be washed away by liberty and virtue where there is no discrimination and where they will be guaranteed their rights not as second class citizens, but as equals in a land that is morally, religiously and historically theirs?

May these kind and gracious people, Samih and Alice find the peace, happiness and God's blessings that they so richly deserve and may we all one day have peace in the Middle East based on fairness, equality and justice for all.

No love lost between France's white-coated crusaders

By Michela Wrong
Reuter

PARIS — For refugees in squalid camps across the world, they are all simply "French doctors" — saintly strangers who fly in with food, drugs and the purest of motives.

But volunteers from France's two medical charities — Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Medecins Du Monde (MDM) — do not like being lumped under the same label. They wince when strangers carelessly identify them with the wrong group.

"Medecins Sans Frontieres and Medecins Du Monde? It's like chalk and cheese," said one volunteer.

For both organisations, 1991 has been a record year, with the latest Ethiopian disaster coming close on the heels of the Bangladesh cyclone, the Kurdish crisis and the Liberian civil war.

MSF (Doctors Without Frontiers) launched an urgent appeal in June to replenish five million francs (\$800,000) of medical stocks after repeated disasters stretched charity funding to the limits.

So why don't they join forces?

The answer dates back to a 12-year-old ideological split which still provokes bitter feelings in the two organisations.

The original group, MSF, was set up by doctors who had played a part in the 1968 student and workers uprising. Full of ideals but disillusioned by politics, they wanted to do something practical for

humanity.

By 1979 it had mushroomed, with long-term projects in Africa and Asia. But conflicting theories about humanitarian aid were pulling the organisation apart.

Flamboyant Doctor Bernard Kouchner urged MSF to focus on in-and-out trips to trouble spots, alerting the world but leaving international aid organisations to tackle long term effects.

"The trouble was, those kind of organisations just don't exist," MSF communications head Dr. Antoine Crouan said in an interview.

Private groups can cut corners to get to disaster zones but state organisations need official permission, he explained.

In Turkey earlier this year, while other organisations struggled with red tape in Ankara, MSF was already inside the Kurdish refugee camps setting up glucose drips.

A budding media personality brimming with ambition, Dr. Kouchner also tended to favour high-profile projects which were not necessarily the most efficient.

After losing a key vote at the 1979 MSF assembly, he walked out with a group of supporters who, two years later, set up a rival spinoff, Medecins Du Monde (Doctors Of The World).

MSF and MDM have since developed distinct personalities.

MSF is bigger, with a yearly budget of 225 million francs

(\$38 million) in private donations, and 4,500 doctors, technicians and logistics experts on standby. The group carried out 220 missions in 66 countries last year.

With a 1991 budget of 135 million francs (\$22 million), MDM launches fewer foreign missions but compensates with major projects at home.

As far as Dr. Kouchner, he went on into politics, becoming France's first state secretary for humanitarian action, a post not always treated seriously in the French media.

Dr. Kouchner and MSF had also clashed over whether to publicise what doctors saw at human disasters — often the result of political decisions — or bite their lips and treat the dying.

Some thought commenting would endanger a charity's role as a neutral independent, while Dr. Kouchner's faction felt they could not turn a blind eye to state abuses.

MDM's founding charter contains an oath promising to speak out for the victims it treats.

"When we see horrors we will cry out," said MDM President Jacques Lebas.

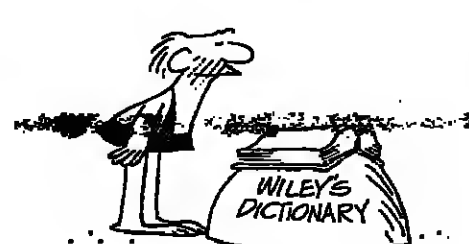
MSF does not refuse on principle to testify, but says it adapts to circumstances. Sometimes, as with Kurdish refugees, nothing gets done unless aid groups kick up a fuss.

"If the best way to help is to testify, we testify. If the best way is to work in secret, we work in secret," said MSF's Dr. Crouan.

The catastrophes of 1991

B.C.

gun powder



A CHINESE INVENTION USED CHIEFLY BY THOSE WHO SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT



'Slice of cake' museum enriches Frankfurt's architectural mix

By Nick Ammerlaan
Reuters

FRANKFURT — A triangular museum known to Frankfurters as the "slice of cake" which houses modern art is the latest addition to the city's mix of old and modern architecture.

Located near the city's cathedral and the half-timbered houses of the mediaeval Roemer Square, the Museum for Modern Art displays works by artists — many still living — in tapered, round, and rectangular white rooms.

Critics have been debating the role the new building plays in visitors' perceptions of the objects on show.

Some people say the building is as striking as the art it houses and many visitors are coming just to admire the building and its interior, designed by Hans Hollein, an Austrian opponent of the matter-of-fact functionalist style.

"Hollein has successfully used the triangular plot," says Director Jean-Christophe Ammann, a Swiss art historian. "We now have a very usable museum with extraordinary rooms and lots of light. But the exterior is disappointing if anything."

On the ground floor of the museum 32 identical black and white figures sit at a 16-metre long table set in a wedge-shaped room that exaggerates the perspective of the exhibit.

"It's an exciting collection in a wonderful building," said one visitor to the museum.

Another sterile white room holds Gerard Richter's pictorial series "18 October 1977" about the suicides of ultra left-wing Red Army Faction

guerrillas in a German prison.

Works by pop artists Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein share part of the top floor. George Segal's avant garde productions and utopian work by Joseph Beuys are also represented.

The museum's permanent collection is based on 84 objects from European and American artists of the 1960s and 1970s and gathered by Darmstadt industrialist Karl Stroecker. The city of Frankfurt bought the collection for five million marks (\$2.86 million) in 1980.

Ammann is worried that the cultural budget of Germany's financial centre might run out after the city spent 65 million marks (\$37 million) on the museum which took four years to build. The 4,150 square metre building opened in June.

"I pray to God the city will give me enough money for future purchases," Ammann told Reuters.

"It's a superb building that blends in well with its surroundings," said a Frankfurt student of architecture. "The colour of the bricks matches those of the cathedral and its roof is level with those of neighbouring houses."

Its walls are almost windowless. Light comes in through an undulating glass roof that blends in with the city's already jumbled skyline.

Frankfurt's cathedral spire and those of three mediaeval churches are surrounded by a semi-circle of high-rise head offices of large banks.

In the north looms a huge telecommunications tower, and in the south west one of Europe's largest office blocks.

By Jessica Baldwin
The Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Author Claire Tomalin was an undergraduate at Cambridge University when she first heard about Charles Dickens' mistress.

Two male professors talked about Ellen Ternan "very slightly and very dismissively. And I just thought then she must have had her own story, she must have at least had a life and been a person," Tomalin said.

Spurred by her curiosity, Ms. Tomalin has unearthed Ternan's story in *The Invisible Woman*. The biography has been well reviewed in the United States and in Britain, where it won the country's

most lucrative literary prize — the £25,000 (\$40,000) NCR Book Award.

The project was put off for years as Tomalin, 38, raised a family, wrote three other biographies and worked as literary editor of the Sunday Times.

Research in the Dickens-Ternan romance was often frustrating because love letters, most receipts and all but one of the diaries were carefully destroyed by the participants.

Ms. Tomalin was forced to rely on theatrical playbills, account books, novels and letters to others from the participants.

"What I thought when I was feeling good, 'This is a story, there is a real story

here,' and when I was feeling bad I thought, 'I've probably wasted three years of my life. There's nothing here at all,'" Ms. Tomalin said on a recent afternoon in her light, book-strewn North London townhouse.

Ternan's life would be of little interest if she hadn't been associated with Dickens, Ms. Tomalin said. But, the author argues, the insights into the period's social history and the different perspective it provides on the novelist make it a story worth telling.

"I think it sort of confirms something we all know about Dickens' work, that Dickens has a problem with writing about women ... this (Ternan's life) was a wonderful

subject for Dickens but he never, never wrote about it, he never went anywhere near it. He went on producing these sort of pink and white innocent heroines," she said.

Ternan, known as "Nelly" was a moderately talented, pretty, 18-year-old actress in 1837 when she and the staunchly Victorian novelist began a romance that continued until Dickens' death in 1870.

"This man seems like everything. He can offer you everything and he's charming and musical and he's at your feet, so I think it would have been very difficult for her to resist him," Ms. Tomalin said.

Ternan was born into the Ribald world of a travelling

troupe of actors, where money was frequently scarce, work gruelling and second class travel in England and Ireland highly unpleasant.

Actresses, like her mother, thought nothing of getting back on stage after a break of a week or two to give birth. Ternan's father died of syphilis in the insane asylum at Bethnal Green, a few months before his youngest daughter's sixth birthday.

Her two older sisters went on to respectability, leaving the stage and marrying Victorian gentlemen. Ellen Ternan, by contrast, was often out of sight, or invisible, as Dickens' lover for 33 years.

After Dickens died, Ternan reinvented herself — lopping years off her age, eras-

ing her past as an actress, making new friends and ultimately becoming the eminently respectable wife of George Wharton Robinson, a provincial school master.

She died in 1914 at the age of 75, her past unknown to her son and daughter.

Gossip during Dickens' life often linked the two. Shortly after meeting Ternan, Dickens publicly separated from Catherine, his wife of 20 years and mother of his 10 children.

It was not until the 1930s that biographers and historians began to quarrel about their relationship. Ms. Tomalin has written that biographers for a long time refused to acknowledge Ternan.

Peruvian desert guardian protects drawings

By Monte Hayes
The Associated Press

NAZCA, Peru — Maria Reiche is old now and ailing, but remains the invincible guardian spirit of the Nazca Lines, a mysterious network of enormous drawings on the desert outside this dusty town.

"This precious thing should be treated like a very fragile manuscript that is guarded in a special room in a library," she said in an interview.

The drawings, second only to Machu Picchu in attracting foreign tourists, cover a 50-kilometre stretch of high desert plain 450 kilometres south of Lima.

Some theories of their origin are wildly imaginative. According to one, they were a landing strip for flying saucers.

To Miss Reiche, a German-born mathematician who turned 88 on May 15, such speculations are fantasy.

She has toiled in the desert 45 years to unravel the mystery of the lines. Her hair has gone white, her pale eyes nearly sightless. Lines criss-cross her face like the drawings she knows so well.

The designs, she has concluded, represent a giant calendar keyed to the movements of the sun, moon and constellations, which told ancient desert dwellers when to plant and irrigate their crops.

They were made well over 1,000 years ago, hundreds of years before the Inca Empire, by clearing the stony surface to expose the whitish soil underneath.

Thousands of shallow lines, some more than eight kilometres long, cross the plain straight as arrows and climb distant hills. Others zigzag or spiral. The bewildering maze contains hundreds of huge clearing in the shapes of rectangles, trapezoids and triangles.

Scattered among the lines

are dozens of figures, including a hummingbird, monkey, heron, whale, cat with fish's tail, spider and flower, ranging in length from four metres to 300 metres.

Most can be seen only from the air. They give the impression of having been traced by a gigantic hand on an immense drawing board.

"They were made for the gods," Miss Reiche said. "That would be the most reasonable explanation for the big size of the figures and the perfection of their execution."

Thousands of tourists come each year to fly over the desert in small planes and, with luck, meet the "lady of the lines," as Miss Reiche has come to be known.

After decades alone on the desert, enveloped by its vastness and solitude, she is amused by the idea that tourists are as eager to see her as they are the drawings.

"It was never in my plans to become the world's biggest

tourist attraction," she said, laughing. "Some of them say it's the highest point of their lives to have seen me. It's the strangest thing."

For a decade or so, she has lived at the Hotel De Turistas, in a room spilling over with astronomical charts and drawings of the Nazca Lines.

Miss Reiche is revered by the townspeople, who realise she has put Nazca on the tourist map, bringing in badly needed money.

Her birthday is an annual event celebrated with street dances and ceremonies of homage by the 10,000 residents. In the last 10 years, she has received many awards and honours from the government and Peruvian universities for her efforts to protect the lines from destruction.

It was not always that way. She came to Nazca in 1946 and would spend weeks at a time on the desert, a fragile figure in the searing sun, subsisting on a meager diet of

fruits and nuts, sleeping under the stars.

In those days, she said, the local people "had three explanations for my existence: One was that I was crazy. Another one that I was looking for a man. And some said I was looking for treasure."

Threats to the lines have included vandalism, a government project to "reconstruct" the drawings, acid rain from mining in the mountains and even a plan to flood the plains for agriculture.

The lady of the lines fought them all, fiercely and without help.

Although she developed Parkinson's Disease several years ago and her legs too weak for the desert, she continues to defend the lines.

Her younger sister, Renata, a retired physician who moved from Germany to Nazca in the early 1980s, has become Miss Reiche's eyes and legs.

Townspeople and local pilots are quick to inform the guardian of any threats to the lines. Like a queen, she hears reports and dispatches orders.

Miss Reiche knows time is running out for her. She began looking for a successor several years ago and found Phyllis Pitluga, an astronomer at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

Ms. Pitluga has spent several months of each year in Nazca and has agreed to move here and carry on the work.

"It was the happiest moment in all my life," Miss Reiche said.

Once more, her thoughts passed beyond the room to the mysterious lines that were her only companion for so many years.

"I have achieved what I wanted," she said, "that this delicate thing, this great legacy of the ancient Peruvians, be preserved."

Kremlin's Peter the Great exhibition returns to Bremen

By Doris Schmidt

BREMEN is hosting for a second time the exhibition "Treasures from the Kremlin — Peter the Great in Western Europe." The Kremlin collection is one of the richest in the world.

It includes insignia belonging to the tsars, invaluable tableware made of gold and silver, objects engraved, worked, decorated with niello; it reflects the Iranian traditions of ornamentation as well as elements of 17th century European art.

This magnificence is evidence of the power of the tsars, who had gained access to the Black Sea, and after fighting the Swedes had gained a footing on the ice-free Baltic.

That led to the establishment of St. Petersburg in 1703. Peter the Great trans-

ferred the Russian capital from Moscow to St. Petersburg nine years later.

Anyone who visits Leningrad for the first time must get used to the breathtaking broad streets and the squares of the city Peter the Great founded on the banks of the Neva according to western and central European standards.

For hours without end the visitor can pass in front of the facades of the city's palaces, losing a sense of perspective. In comparison Versailles has an intimate effect.

In 1697 Peter, then 25, set off on his long journey to Western Europe. He went from Moscow to Novgorod, Riga, Magdeburg, Halberstadt, Nijmegen to Amsterdam, and eventually to London.

On the return journey he visited Halle, Leipzig, Dres-

den, Prague, Vienna and Brno. He returned to Moscow via Tropol, Brest, Minsk and Smolensk.

It was more than a diplomatic journey. It lasted two years and the young tsar returned home with ideas of reform and order on his head, (extending to dress and the cut of the beard) and determined to modernise his country.

In Amsterdam Peter I gave much of his attention to shipbuilding. But it is uncertain just how much the young man, bounding with energy and intentions of domination, was practically involved in shipbuilding.

There is a huge rowboat in his summer home in Moscow, which has been under glass since 1844 to protect it from the weather. In 1977 the female travel guide reverently said that Peter the Great had built it, "and he was paid just like an ordinary state carpenter."

This remark shows that even today Peter the Great is a man who is still much honoured by the ordinary people of Russia. When Mikhail Gorbachev seeks to bring the USSR and the West closer together he can appeal to the example set by Peter I.

There is, then, a certain consistency in using the treasures of the Kremlin Museum, which includes about 100,000 objects, as an instrument for modern cultural diplomacy.

The patrons of the exhibition in Bremen's Übersee-Museum are German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his Soviet colleague Alexander Bessmertnykh. At the opening ceremony the cultural attaché at the USSR embassy in Bonn said that "the link between the arts and diplomacy has proven itself."

There are 100 exhibits from the Kremlin Museum collection to be seen in Bremen, but the design of the exhibition is very opulent which deflects attention from them rather than augmenting

them.

There are several paintings, portraits of Peter I as a child and as tsar, and examples of icon painting, which at the end of the 17th century cast off the Athos rules as a result of new Church policies.

One icon is made of painted pieces of cloth which are cut to correspond to the composition of the image. Others show the deviations which become clearest in the

tors of the Thirty Years' War. They recognised the artistic worth of the baroque artworks from goldsmiths and silversmiths, works with power and elegance, with precise handwork, a post-humanist content and a representational character. The Swedish monarchs gave new life to this art with such diplomatic gifts.

The original royal and court art, the art of self-

was up to the end of the 17th century. This is demonstrated by the credences (the small table beside the altar on which the bread and the wine are placed before being consecrated) with statues of Mars and Venus by Hans Jakob Baur, and the works of Matthias Heib, Johannes Raminger and Heinrich Manlich. The huge display panel by Lorenz Biller, showing the victory of the Austro-Polish armies over the Turks in 1683, was presented to the tsar by the Emperor Leopold in 1684.

In the same year Peter the Great received a plate from the workshops of the Hamburg silversmith Jürgen Richel, on which was depicted the occupation of Carthage by Scipio Africanus in 202 BC.

The magnificent German works are contrasted by austere lidded cups, plates, pots and candlesticks by Amsterdam and Stockholm masters, which already give a hint of classicism.

What will be new for most west European visitors to this exhibition will certainly be the gold, several of gilded silver, Russian vessels for everyday use: flat drinking dishes, the "Kovchshchis" and "Charkas," with their typical Russian "unit" enamel, displaying a technique which has not been used anywhere else.

The "units" are trimmed with twisted gold thread which limit the flower ornamentation or the leaf-shaped spaces, on which blossoms and birds are painted against a dazzling white, blue or pink enamel background, or on which characters from specific stories and from many periods vividly appear.

The same technique can be seen once more in the young tsar's scepter, included in the exhibition, and "Tscharka" with the Russian eagle, set with precious stones: when used for vodka or some other drink the eagle seems as if sunken in a small lake.

What is interesting is the mixture of Western shapes for vessels and Oriental, Per-



Gold Chalice, enamel-plated, with precious stones, Kremlin-made, 1695.

Great's times, of his personality and the culture of the time, particularly in Russia. It conveys some impression of the culture of the countries Peter the Great visited. By means of accounts and registers the exhibition shows how many members of various professions were recruited by the tsar on his European journey. The tsar's visits to various workshops are described in detail, and where he stayed to work and learn.

A firework display, put on by the tsar as a "complete work of art," seems like a richly equipped stage. But it cannot be ignored that Peter the Great was himself involved in the hangings on the walls of the Kremlin after the strelitz revolt, the soldiers of the Muscovite guards.

Peter the Great was a ruler, who reached out far, who got down to things in a tough manner, who tamed excessiveness by being active and so held firm his enormous empire. — Süddeutsche Zeitung.



Medallion with a miniature portrait of the youthful Peter, early 18th century.



Peter the Great's diamond-studded crown, made in Moscow, 1680-90.

presentation of space.

Costly evangelaria with golden clasps and engraved medallions have been included in the Bremen exhibition.

There are also splendid examples of the work of goldsmiths and silversmiths, mainly masters from Augsburg, splendid not only for their form and weight but for the artistry of their conception and execution. Most were gifts from the Swedish kings Charles XI and Charles XII.

The Swedes were the vic-

Cot death experts say: Don't let them sleep on their stomachs

By Reg Gratton
Reuters

SYDNEY — Medical experts meeting in Australia offer simple advice to prevent thousands of babies dying suddenly and inexplicably in their beds every year — don't let infants sleep on the stomachs.

Leading researchers investigating cot death or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) concluded recently that infants who sleep on their stomachs had a significantly increased risk of dying from the mysterious syndrome.

The two-day meeting in Canberra of experts and policy makers from Europe, Australia and New Zealand called for an urgent public health programme to educate parents about the risk to infants from sleeping on their stomachs.

"Such a programme could

save thousands of lives worldwide," Professor Terry Dwyer, of Australia's Menzies Centre for population, told Reuters.

Prof. Dwyer's team of researchers carried out a three-year study of 3,500 babies in the Australian island state of Tasmania, the first prospective study of SIDS from birth to death.

Of these babies, 19 died of SIDS and Prof. Dwyer concluded from the sleep data that the prone position might account for 40 per cent of SIDS deaths in Tasmania.

With an estimated 500 babies dying from SIDS in Australia every year, Prof. Dwyer concluded that 200 lives could be saved annually by simply educating parents about sleeping positions.

While the sleeping position was not the only cause of SIDS, research showed it was a significant factor, Prof. Dwyer said.

"The risk in infants who are placed prone, that is on their stomachs, is of the order of three times or more greater than for infants who are placed on their side or on their back," he said.

SIDS is a major cause of death of infants between one month and one year with an incidence of about two per 1,000 live births in Australia and about 1.5 in the United States, Prof. Dwyer said.

"We feel that this can be changed dramatically and very quickly," Prof. Dwyer said.

Health workers in New Zealand's South Island, who have for the past year been advising parents to lay their babies on their sides or backs, have reported a drop in SIDS.

In New Zealand, which has the highest SIDS rate in the world, it is the major cause of death in the one to 12-month age group and the main

reason why the country's infant mortality rate is about double that of countries like Sweden, at eight deaths per 1,000 births.

Dr. Barry Taylor, from New Zealand's Dunedin Otago Medical School, reported that early assessment of an education programme on sleep position indicated that the death rate from SIDS in the South Island had dropped from 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1979-1984 to 1.3 in 1990.

Studies in the Netherlands had also shown the death rate dropped when sleeping position was changed.

Although the major conference conclusion appeared simple it was conceded that specific causes of SIDS were many and still not fully understood.

More research was needed to determine why SIDS and sleeping positions were linked.

Suicide manual turns bestseller, highlights euthanasia debate

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuters

WASHINGTON — A step-by-step guide on how to commit suicide has turned into a bestseller in the United States.

The book *Final Exit*, is meant for people with terminal diseases and draws fresh attention to a long-standing debate that pits "right to die" groups against the principle that life must be preserved at all costs.

Final Exit was written by Derek Humphry, founder of the Hemlock Society, named after the poison the Greek philosopher Socrates took to kill himself more than 2,000 years ago.

Founded in 1980, the Hemlock Society now has 38,000 members. The group campaigns for the right of a terminally ill patient to die, and it favours the help of a physician, if possible, to carry out the practice, known as euthanasia.

An article in the *Wall Street Journal* in July drew attention to the existence of *Final Exit* — ignored by reviewers — and triggered an unusual rush that saw 20,000 copies sold in two weeks.

Humphry said.

"The journal *Piece* appeared on Friday. The booksellers were sold out by Saturday lunch time. They were re-ordering madly on Monday morning," he said a recent interview.

"We printed 41,000 copies and they have all gone. We just ordered another 20,000. I knew it would sell but I am surprised at the sudden success of the book. I thought the 41,000 would last until next year."

Books that sell more than 15,000 copies in hardcover are considered bestsellers by the publishing trade.

Detailed information provided in *Final Exit* — subtitled "the practicalities of self-deliverance and assisted suicide for the dying," ranges from securing lethal prescription drugs to finding a physician prepared to assist in suicide.

Euthanasia is illegal in the United States and most other Western countries but a recent survey suggests that the practice is widespread.

According to the survey, published in the July issue of the magazine *Physician's Management*, nearly half the 2,000 doctors who responded to the poll had deliberately

taken clinical actions that would indirectly cause a patient's death.

Almost one in 10 had taken actions that would directly cause a patient's death and 3.7 per cent provided patients or their families with information to be used for suicide.

Such information, Humphry said, is scarce. Physicians are taught the therapeutic value of drugs but not how they may be used to end life.

In five chapters addressed to doctors and nurses, *Final Exit* discusses the pros and cons of various prescription drugs, ways of administering them and the most effective dosage.

"The lethal oral dose of pentobarbital sodium or secobarbital sodium is estimated at 3G (grams). For safety's sake, a triple dose may be considered the euthanasic dosage."

According to Humphry, polls conducted for the Hemlock Society show that 70 per cent of Americans approve of the idea that physicians should be allowed to help a patient die if prolonging his life would only inflict suffering.

For those who fail to find a willing doctor, *Final Exit*

offers detailed guidelines to

sure and painless death. No matter what drug is taken, the book says, use of a plastic bag is "highly advisable" for those who do not have the help of a physician to end their lives.

The plastic bag, the book advises, should be used in conjunction with sleeping pills.

"With the plastic bag secured around the neck, the dying person uses up oxygen in the air, replacing it with carbon dioxide, and leaving behind nitrogen that permits breathing. A human cannot live on carbon dioxide and nitrogen alone."

The book comes out firmly against death by cyanide ("can be painful in the extreme") and lists a number of "bizarre ways to die" deemed unacceptable either because they are unreliable or messy.

One bizarre suicide involved a man in California who made his pet rattlesnake bite him on the hand. He suffered a fatal heart attack.

Shooting, the most widely practised form of suicide in the United States, "is definitely not the exit of choice for believers in euthanasia," the book says.

Scientists report renewed hopes for AIDS vaccine compound

LONDON (R) — Scientists Thursday reported renewed hopes for an AIDS vaccine after an experimental compound successfully blocked infection in chimpanzees.

A report in the latest *Nature* magazine revives interest in the experimental drug CD4 despite earlier tests in humans that seemed to indicate it was not effective against acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Researchers at Genentech, a U.S.-based subsidiary of Roche of Switzerland, reported that two chimpanzees which were treated with CD4

remained free of AIDS infection 60 weeks after injection with the HIV virus that causes the disease. A third chimpanzee which was not given the drug did become infected.

Tests on chimpanzees are an important step in determining whether a drug will be able to work as a vaccine against the disease in humans.

There is currently no vaccine for AIDS and only one approved treatment, Wellcome's AZT, which only slows the progress of the disease but does not cure it.

CD4 is an artificially produced molecule that imitates a natural protein found on the surface of key disease-fighting white blood cells known as T-4 Cells.

These cells are the target of the HIV virus, which destroys the body's immune system.

The CD4 drug acts as a decoy, causing the virus to bind to it rather than the T-4 Cell surface.

When the drug was first discovered a few years ago, researchers had said it was among the most promising AIDS therapies on the horizon based on laboratory tests.

But a clinical trial of 90 adults started in August 1989 found that, although the drug was safe, it did not have any impact on the disease.

In January Genentech announced that it was sharply curtailing research into its version of CD4.

The scientists who conducted the *Nature* study warned that more tests must be undertaken against different strains of the HIV virus to determine if the drug is effective.

Private initiative works towards setting up a German bone-marrow register

By Rainer Flöhl

AN INITIATIVE of individual people is making the idea of a national register for bone marrow donors more realisable in spite of bureaucratic obstacles. Physicians such as the internist Dr. Ehninger from Tübingen have been calling for such a facility for years, but the applications for its funding were passed to and from between the Federal Social Affairs, Health and Research and Technology Ministries.

Persons who have contracted leukaemia and other blood-generation disorders, whose lives can only be saved by a transplantation of bone marrow are the ones to suffer. If a matching donor cannot be found in the patient's own family the person concerned has to rely on the help of non-relatives. This entails a desperate search; but relatives — mothers, fathers, children and brothers or sisters — never give up the fight.

Their letters to ministries and to members of parliament have ensured that plans were discussed and passed on, but the situation of the sick people themselves has not noticeably improved. In response to an appeal by the Stefan Morsch Foundation for donors for a nine-year-old boy and by two young people for donors for their mother almost 20,000 people in several German cities gave a blood sample to enable the identification of their tissue factors. A further large-scale campaign has started in Hamburg.

The population's willingness to help prompted the German cancer aid association, Deutsche Krebshilfe, to step up efforts to extend the register for bone marrow donors. Its chairman, Savings Bank Association president Helmut Geiger, announced that the organisation intends investing DM10 million — more than has single project has ever received from the citizen's initiative founded by Mildred Scheel.

DM5 million is to be spent on the typologisation of 20,000 donors, and the remaining DM5 million on identifying the tissue factors of additional blood donors. Mr. Geiger hopes that 50,000 bone marrow donors will be registered in Germany by the end of this year. This, however, can only be the beginning, since at least 150,000 volun-

tary donors are required. The government, therefore, will also have to pull its weight and contribute towards extending the register. A corresponding application has been submitted to the German Health Ministry.

Every year, roughly 2,000 children and adults contract leukaemia in Germany. Although a number of patients can be cured by chemotherapy and radiation treatment, about 1,300 need a bone marrow transplantation because their illness rejects aggressive therapy or because relapses occur. Only 30 per cent of the patients, however, have brothers or sisters with tissue factors with which a transplantation would stand a good chance of being successful. For a further 10 per cent a donor can be found in the extended family circle. The remaining 60 per cent — roughly 800 patients a year — rely on the bone marrow of non-related donors. Suitable donors, however, are rare.

A life-saving feature of the white blood cells is to blame. As part of the body's immunological system it attacks alien tissue, such as bacteria, tumours and transplants. This is why the white blood cells of the leukaemia sufferers have to be destroyed by drugs or radiation before bone marrow is transplanted. At the same time all degenerated blood cells are destroyed. Otherwise, an immunological war would rage between the two blood strains.

The transplanted marrow is generally accepted by the organism, and blood formation recommences. The immunocells, however, now attack the "alien" host. This transplant-versus-host reaction can lead to serious complications and can even be fatal. The better the "match" between the tissue factors of the recipient and donor, the less intense this reaction.

In the case of genetically identical twins, for example, there is no reaction at all. Because of the serious risks, which cannot be ruled out even when using the best drugs available to suppress immunological resistance, non-related donors were not initially considered. It was not until 1979 that alien bone marrow transplantation was ventured in the United States.

The French medical researcher Jean Dausset deserves a great deal of the credit for

making such transplantations possible. In 1980 he received the Nobel Prize for Medicine for his achievements in this field. During the 1970s he discovered that the structure of the tissue factors responsible for the repulsion is genetically anchored. As in the case of blood groups, there were hopes at that time that matching donors could be found through serological tests. Expectations, however, were only partially fulfilled.

Every person has three main groups and numerous "weaker" sub-groups. Furthermore, the variability within these groups is substantial. An estimated 25 million different possible combinations exist for the three main groups alone. The chances of finding an identical donor among non-related persons, therefore, are very slim. Certain constellations, however, predominate within a population. Yet even the most frequent genetic combinations only account for a percentage share of 0.5 per cent of the European population. The chances of finding a more or less matching donor among relatives is thus much greater, but the fact that families are becoming smaller reduces the chances. This is why the tissue factors of voluntary donors are systematically determined in all industrial nations.

A reservoir of at least 100,000 voluntary donors is needed to find a donor for 50 per cent of the patients waiting for a bone marrow transplantation. Between one and two million would be needed to find suitable donors for all patients — not including those patients with extremely rare combinations. It is obvious that such an extensive register can only be compiled through international cooperation. Germany, however, lags so far behind other countries in this respect that donors to find matching donors for German patients.

320,000 donors are registered in the United States, 170,000 in Britain and 60,000 in France. The larger the data files, the sooner a donor can be found. In the past, the procedure took such a long time that the disease has progressed and the chances of being cured worsened. On average, the international search for suitable donors takes 10 months. Certain waiting periods, however, will always be necessary.

After a donor has been found, further compatibility tests with the blood cells have to be carried out. "Elegant genetic engineering techniques can be expected to bring about improvements soon. The precision connected with genetic analyses, however, may also mean that donors who would have been previously accepted will then be turned down. Only experience will show which incompatibilities are tolerable.

Only 10 to 20 millilitres of blood are required for the analysis of tissue factors. During the special campaign week blood sample centres will be set up at easy-to-reach locations — in Hamburg, for example, at the Alster Pavilion (which is in the city centre).

Donors should not be older than 55 and should not suffer from serious diseases. The data are stored anonymously. The potential donor is informed if the tissue factors match those of a patient.

For statistical reasons only at most one in a hundred donors can actually donate bone marrow. Its extraction requires a local or general anaesthetic. Just under a litre of marrow mixed with blood is siphoned off the hip-bone. Some clinics discharge the donor on the same day, whereas others insist on several days as an in-patient. To rule out possible complications involving the anaesthetic the donors have to be examined carefully beforehand.

The results of bone marrow transplantation justify the time and effort invested in the register. Since 1974, over 35,000 bone marrow transplantations have been carried out worldwide.

In some cases, survival rates of 70 per cent have been recorded, in other cases 40 per cent. Last year, about 550 transplantations were carried out in 13 centres in Germany. In the former GDR there were three centres which transplanted bone marrow. The number of operations could increase rapidly in future. If progress is made with regard to the selection of donors it cannot be ruled out that more and more sick people will benefit. Chemotherapy could then be carried out more aggressively. The bone marrow destroyed could be renewed by subsequent transplantation. This could reduce the occurrence of relapses. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung.

Crossword Weekend

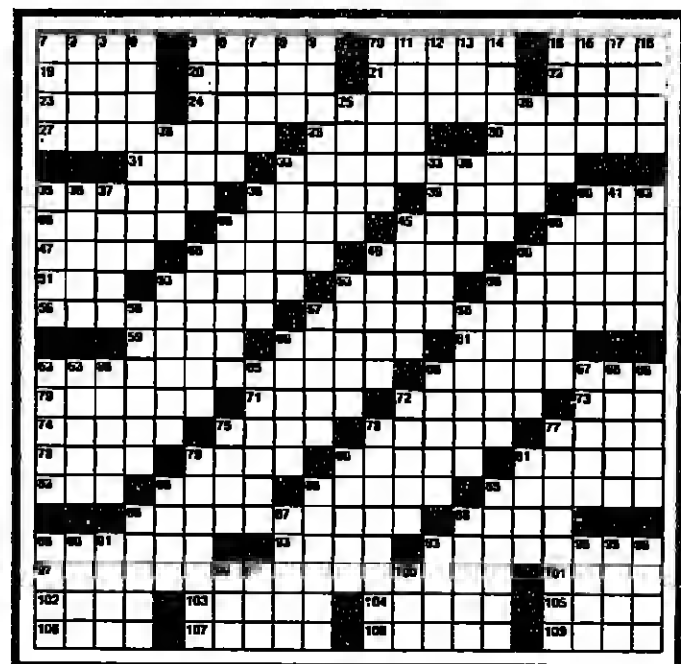
COMPLEMENTARY
By Harold B. Cousins

ACROSS
1 Walk
2 Make a package
3 Top-notch
4 Describing a bad
5 Military students
6 Fragrance
7 Fr. Fr.
8 Raccoon
9 Lets go
10 Jordan and
11 "I do"
12 Disposed
13 My school letters
14 Oranoid
15 Siding
16 Art deco name
17 Tarradiddle
18 Bakery item
19 Force out
20 One in Bonn

40 Small units of
41 Quaker
44 Floral sign
45 Bound
46 Heavy set dog
47 Theater action
48 Intricate
49 Vase
50 — Boote Luce
51 Vase
52 Foundry
53 Disney film
54 Hamlet
55 Dinner courses
57 Old TV show
59 Commedia dell'—
60 Toast order
61 Cross

62 Certain road
63 Q
70 Stairs
71 Shorten a sail
72 Deciduous
73 Calendar abbr.
74 Idolize
75 Patchy in color
76 Butcher's offering
77 Attenuated
78 Torment and
79 Arrest
80 Embroidery
81 Marshy ground
82 PGA member
83 Legal document
84 Bowler's Max and
85 Buddy

85 Piano
86 Perform
87 Phoenician
88 Soft, agile
89 Phases for
90 Vaccines
91 Actor Richard
92 One of the
93 Channel is
94 Reflexes
95 Wash cycle
96 Race
97 Nautical term
98 Litter
99 Unit for
consumption



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Evidence of a very worthy man or woman is the simple province of fools.
2. What was it called when they parasite prayed for mercy to animal host?
3. Prior to signing on the dotted line, most of us are first required to acquit at the small print.
4. Adored sports superstar gets winded blowing up a balloon.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CEXBI REGION, ELBOW HA SO MELLOW
USD DEN, NOMRBOW DNHOARI, "YCU BA
USO MREXO OEL CMOT." —By Lois R. Jones

2. JBYL WBBHDFRJJL BFCLEBQIR BLCBC F
YSI AWCCWIR XICCFD KICWJE YITLD MIE
UDWLX STI RFALB TWB KLY KIXCL FB
MLRLUJWPFDE. —By Earl Ireland

3. KENE ANTU TUB BPL BPE YPDU NT PTO
ULSBCKUO ACBY SBPTD: "BBINER
SHINER." —By Ed Huddleston

4. KOBESB KRECHEDB ISSZ UDQS BWI 'O'
BUZZED DCWQSZ. —By Norton Rhoades

Diagramless 19 X 19, By James Barrick

ACROSS
1 School dance
2 Son of Jacob
3 King
10 Signs of things to
come
12 Act like a ham
14 French
16 Attention
18 Race
19 Not at all busy
21 Applaud
23 Of wags

24 Valentine or
Carpenter
25 Twangy
26 Fr. no sign
27 Lulu food
28 Carromones
34 Leaves
36 Crystal-ball gazer
40 Laughable
42 Playing marble
43 City on the Seine
45 Counted

47 Delayer's word
48 Stop at sea
49 Offer opposing
evidence
51 Like the Sahara
52 Closes again
53 Ice cream parlor
54 Treats
56 Compass pt.
58 Latvian
60 Era
62 Where Bacchus is

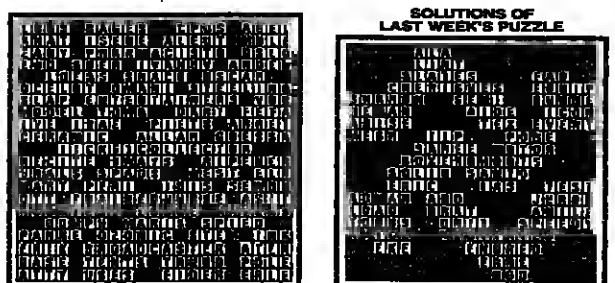
64 Penny
65 Belgrade
66 Native
67 Seal
68 Snake
69 On the double
70 To double
72 Tossle
74 Word of parting
75 Fable's lesson
76 Former spouses
77 Yourself
78 River in Austria

DOWN
1 Does a farm job
2 Sand payment
3 King
6 Dystonia
7 Love god
8 Obtained
9 —In-the-road
11 Sonnet or St.
James
13 Conspicuous
success
15 Kind of bear

17 Kind of seal
20 Fundamental
22 For —a sailor
25 Part of Asia
27 Artificial
animal
28 Babble
30 Aquatic
mammal
31 Fr. river
32 Males tractable
35 Chimpanzee
officials

36 Extra
37 Projecting
overhang of a
roof
38 Glass a tape
39 Ascend
41 Henry — Lodge
42 Plant part
43 Absurdity
44 Lined
50 Males tractable
53 Durocher

54 Kind of arch
55 March
56 —coba
61 Play a guitar
63 Dwelling
66 To — (exactly)
67 Item for a cook
68 Hiss repeatedly
71 Veto
73 Fashion



'Western pressure boosts Iraq'

(Continued from page 1)

region. I do not think that the region is approaching peace; quite the opposite, the region is nearing an era of tension. Even if the U.S. was able to attain the peace, they are talking about, the only peace that area will witness, if any, will be the peace of hegemony, or what can be called Roman peace. The peace of hegemony is never a lasting peace, it is temporary. It will eventually crack up. The seeds of tension have been already planted in the region. The tension has already started.

I will like to tell you something about myself, which might be indicative of the mood in the region. I have always tried to be rational and objective. I might not have always succeeded but I have always tried to. Now I do not deny that it has become difficult everyday for me to maintain my objectivity. My difficulty in maintaining an objective approach is due to the tyranny and arrogance of the U.S. and the Western politicians. What I am trying to say is that the West is wrong if it believes that by reverting to colonialist and tyrannical practices it will reinforce moderation and objectivity in any part of the world.

The reaction to the current Western policies will be exactly the opposite. These practices, (by the West) will only reinforce bitterness and consequently extremism.

Therefore it is true that the U.S. influence has grown stronger but it will be met with people's resistance, especially if the U.S. continues its interference in other countries' affairs in the name of protection. This does not only apply to the U.S. policy in the region but also in Europe and particularly Eastern Europe. Who is creating tensions in Yugoslavia and in other parts of Eastern Europe? They are trying to change Eastern Europe to a market for western goods ... no more. Thus American policies will conflict and have to confront people's resistance everywhere.

Q: Yet the pro-American governments in the region have also become stronger. How do you see the future balance of power in this region?

A: They will regret their policies. These policies are conceived.

These governments have not learned any lessons from the past. They have not learned a lesson from the examples of the fate of King Fawaz in Egypt and the monarchy in Iraq, or any regime that remained subordinate to the colonialists in the post-World War II era.

What they do not understand is that people have not changed. If anything, people have become more politically aware than in that period. Those who do not learn from history cannot understand the present or the future.

If they really cared about their people and were far-sighted they would have realized that the U.S. cannot be the guardian or the protector of this region, its people, its resources or its oil. The only policy that we in Iraq accept is that which will enhance Arab independence. We are not calling for a confrontation with the U.S. but there is a clear difference between capitulation and pursuing an independent policy. We would like to ask them what is the aim of supporting the weakening of Iraq. How can the undermining of Iraq serve Arab independence and interests?

How can the embargo against Iraq serve Arab interests? If the aim is to undermine the regime this is sheer nonsense. As an official, the embargo is hurting me less than it is affecting the ordinary Iraqi. Why are they trying to hurt the Iraqi people? How can that serve Arab interests?

Q: Do you think that the Baathist party in Iraq has been seriously weakened? What is the future of the party, and how can it revive its role on the grassroot level?

A: The way to do that (strengthening the party) is to allow competition by other parties. We are talking about competition that can stimulate the party's organizations.

Q: What do you mean by competition? Do you mean that political parties will be confined to competing with the Baathist party, but cannot be allowed to form a government?

A: No, we may be ready to share power with another party if the situation allows and if there was such a party.

Q: What about the future of the Iraqi Communist Party. Is it true that it will be banned?

A: I think that the Iraqi Communist Party can find a formula which will allow it to work (in the new set-up). But it has to solve its problems as it has suffered splits.

Iraqi leadership confident, feels vindicated

(Continued from page 1)

World with that which prevailed immediately following World War II.

"The West, particularly the U.S., has reverted to colonialist practices (in the region)," Dr. Hamadi argued. In his view this situation will result in a revival of the independent nationalist movement in the Arab World and the demise of the regimes which are associated with foreign control.

"If these (pro-American) governments cannot learn from history and persist in their shortsightedness, their fate will be no different than that of the regimes which were associated with the old colonialists," he warned.

Dr. Hamadi's warning is not necessarily a threat, since post-war Iraq has lost the tools for bringing about such an eventual change, analysts maintained. But to a great extent, it explains the renewed confidence that the Iraqi leadership is displaying about its future.

An agreement with Kurdish parties over the future of Iraqi Kurdistan and political reforms involving some form of political pluralism are also viewed by Dr. Hamadi as key elements for the continuity of the Iraqi state as it is today.

Dr. Hamadi implied that despite the disastrous consequences of the war and the Kurdish and Shiite rebellions in the north and south, the ensuing political situation is paving the way for pluralism, political freedoms, a historical reconciliation with the Kurds and preventing a sectarian division between the Shiites and Sunnis in the country.

The prime minister conceded that the post-war developments, particularly the negotiations with the Kurdish parties, have prompted the leadership to accept important and liberal modifications to its pre-war draft of a new constitution and political parties' law. He refused to elaborate but disclosed for the first time that the Baathist Party will consider sharing power with another party — if it need be.

The last experience in Iraq's recent history of a coalition government had ended tragically at the end of the seventies when the Baathists cracked down on their Communist partners in the National Front after accusing them of recruiting army officers in their organization.

Rejecting suggestions that the leadership was not taking concrete steps towards democracy in Iraq, Dr. Hamadi said repeatedly that political pluralism and the various laws allowing political and press freedoms will not be put into effect until the signing of an agreement with the Kurdish groups. He indicated that the leadership saw a real chance in winning over the Kurdish minority, away from foreign influence, and putting an end to perceived Iranian attempts to manipulate Iraqi Shiites, especially in the south.

"We are confident that they (the Kurdish parties) are seeking a nationalist solution which will preserve our national unity. We cannot but welcome such a position," he said in an allusion to the Iraqi leadership's hopes that the negotiations with the Kurdish groups will end the Kurds' historical reliance on foreign governments.

Dr. Hamadi, a Shiite himself, admitted that even though the government was convinced that Iranian instigation was the main moving force behind last March's bloody rebellion in the south, there were also protests that expressed grievances of the Shiite population.

But he asserted that the Iranian and pro-Iranian movement's practices had compelled many of the Shiites who had joined the rebellion to regret their participation in it and reconsider their attitudes towards the central government.

In Dr. Hamadi's view, the violent way that the pro-Iranian groups handled the people in the south during the rebellion had undermined the future chances of setting up an Iranian-style Islamic regime in Baghdad.

"People had had a first-hand ex-

perience with what I call a mini-model of the Iranian regime," Dr. Hamadi maintained, referring to the two-week long control by pro-Iranian Shiites of the southern cities.

Throughout the interview Dr. Hamadi was careful to show that Iraq was keen on reintegrating into Arab and international community but insisted on maintaining "its independent position."

"There is a big difference between capitulation and pursuing an independent policy," he said.

In the Iraqi official's view, both the repeated controversies about the United Nations' inspection team's findings regarding Iraqi nuclear and chemical weapons and the U.S.-led peace process to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict are two indications of Washington's attempt to control the region and to strip Iraq and the Arab World of their independence.

"Our decision to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions is irrevocable ... we are doing so, on more and no less," he said.

In the first official reaction to the U.S.-led peace process, Dr. Hamadi accused the U.S. of trying to impose what he called "a peace of hegemony" on the Palestinians and the Arabs.

"Such peace cannot be permanent ... it is temporary peace," he said. "The West is wrong by thinking that by pursuing their gunboat diplomacy and tyrannical practices they can bring about moderation ... the result will be the opposite as they will only provoke extremism," he warned.

Lamia Andoni is the Jordan and Iraq correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, in which part of this interview has also been published.

Bush 'more optimistic' on peace

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinian news agency Wafa reported Wednesday.

Mr. Arafat and Ambassador Chiborine Boris Alexevich met Tuesday, Wafa reported.

The pair examined "the evolution of the situation in the Arab region and the efforts deployed to establish a lasting peace on the basis of recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people and an independent state," Wafa said.

Other details were not disclosed.

Libya's official news agency Wednesday denounced U.S. efforts to seek the help of Arab states of North Africa in the Middle East peace process.

It called the latest bid a new "U.S. Zionist plot against the Arab Nation" and said Libya was "honored" that Mr. Baker did not stop there during his recent trip to the region.

King: Last chance for peace

(Continued from page 1)

a danger if people really believe that at the moment... We are not talking about power or the lack of it at a moment in history, but that may change inevitably. I hope that people will not look at that as determining factor. We hope that it will not be an issue and that could be solved peacefully if real efforts were put into it.

"But we ask is this a new world? What does a new world order mean? If peace is established now on the kind of basis that generations after us will accept and live with that is a great achievement."

American and Israeli efforts to involve the Jordanians in all matters

related to the Palestinians "won't work and of course it won't happen," the King said. "We believe firmly and we are committed to the fact that the Palestinians have indicated that they wish to speak for themselves to represent themselves, regarding their problem so they have to be there. We cannot speak for them nor we wish to. We have offered an umbrella of a joint delegation to deal with the problem of the Israeli-Palestinian dimension. We have to work together. But on the Palestine-Israeli dimension only the Palestinians and the Israelis can deal with that. But we have always said that our future is linked together."

The King said many misconceptions of Jordanian-Palestinian have been removed. "We know that our faith is intertwined and interlinked. We know that we have to work together to help them reestablish their rights. We realize that we have to rely on each other and support one another as a people more than ever before."

On future relations between Palestine and Jordan, he said: "I think that it is too early to look at this issue, but if we look to the past there was constant reference to a special relationship. I always believed that the Palestinians wanted their own identity and the Jordanians wanted their identity. There was talk about return to the former union."

which I never ever believed in. I lived it all these years but I found it was all wrong because each side is attached to its own identity. But we are brothers and one family. So then must be a balance in any confederation or whatever. We will work it out."

"I believe that the Americans are more serious. They realize that they cannot afford failure."

"But they should have their own positions in terms of the major issues. But they should be there along with the Soviets and hopefully all concerned parties, one way or another, to try to overcome difficulties."

Iraq assails Islamic countries

(Continued from page 1)

team wrapped up its work in Iraq Wednesday and planned to leave with material used in a biological weapons research programme, the team's chief inspector said.

The leader of another team, in Iraq to inspect nuclear weapons projects,

said the Iraqis still had not produced answers to some of his questions, and that the country's "history of deception" made it difficult to determine the full scope of its nuclear programme.

"It's still a piecemeal process," said David Kay, the nuclear inspector

whose group plans to leave Saturday after a two-week stay.

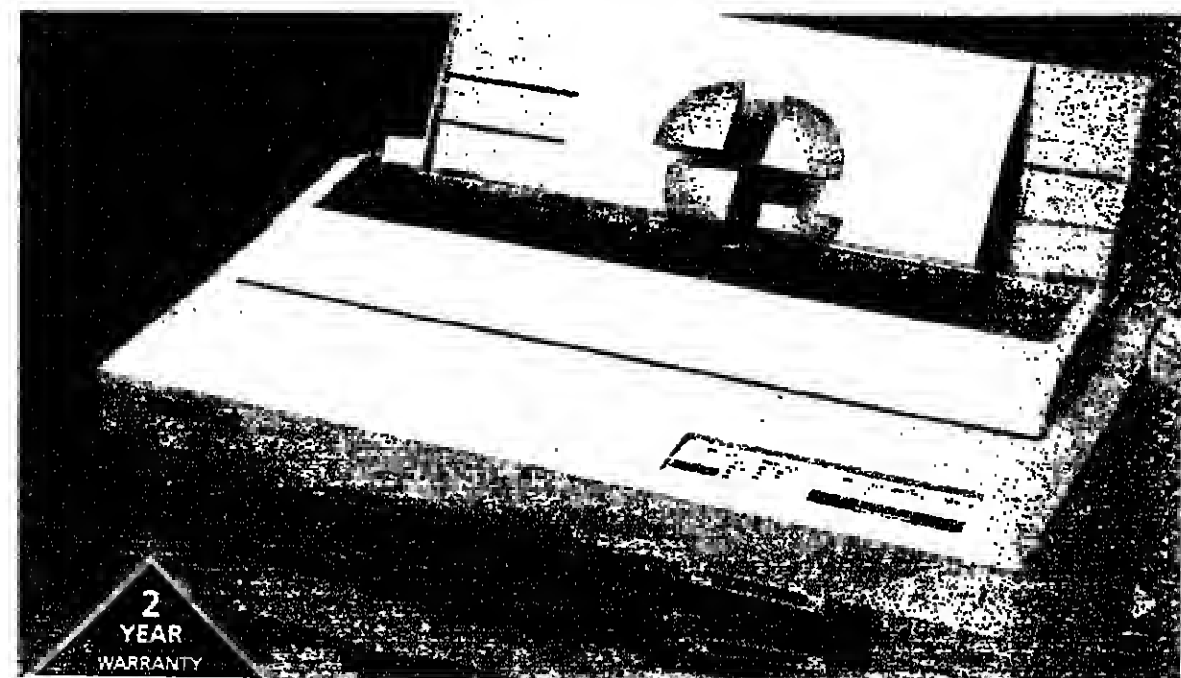
Mr. Kay's counterpart for germ warfare, David Kelly, said his team would depart Thursday after spending five days at Salman Pak, a research centre south of Baghdad where Iraq has acknowledged research-

ing biological warfare.

"The United Nations considers our mission to be successful," Mr. Kelly said.

Mr. Kelly said his team would be taking with it cultures of anthrax, clostridium botulin and other material that had been used in the Iraq weapons research.

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Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.7135	1.7050
Deutsche Mark	1.7100	1.7117
Swiss Franc	1.4910	1.4980
French Franc	5.8160	5.8260
Japanese Yen	135.64	136.00
European Currency Unit	1.1445	1.1464

1300 PM EST
Lecture Opening @ 8:30 AM GMT

Short-term Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.55	5.62	5.75	6.00
Sterling Pound	10.87	10.81	10.75	10.62
Deutsche Mark	9.06	9.25	9.41	9.37
Swiss Franc	7.74	7.81	7.81	7.75
French Franc	9.33	9.42	9.56	9.69
Japanese Yen	7.11	7.12	7.06	6.81
European Currency Unit	9.10	9.11	9.75	9.81

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding 1 M. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent

Commodity	U.S. Dollar	U.S. Dollar
Gold	257.45	257.45
Silver	5.98	5.98

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	1.455	1.467
Sterling Pound	1.144	1.157
Deutsche Mark	1.021	1.034
Swiss Franc	1.040	1.053
French Franc	1.114	1.127
Japanese Yen	1.037	1.050
Dutch Guilder	1.049	1.062
Swedish Krona	1.099	1.112
Italian Lira	1.053	1.066
Belgian Franc	1.051	1.064

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Rubini Dinar	1.7810	1.7900
Lebanese Lira	1.0750	1.0850
Saudi Riyal	1.122	1.1310
Kuwait Dinar	1.1810	1.1900
Qatari Riyal	1.1810	1.1900
Egyptian Pound	1.1810	1.1900
Omani Riyal	1.1810	1.1900
UAE Dirham	1.1810	1.1900
Greek Drachma	1.1810	1.1900
Cypriot Pound	1.1810	1.1900

CAD Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	5/8/91	6/8/91	Change
All-Share	109.47	109.07	-0.40
Banking Sector	114.27	113.41	-0.86
Insurance Sector	114.37	113.07	-1.30
Industry Sector	114.24	113.75	-0.49
Services Sector	117.46	117.66	+0.20

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7090/7100	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1470/75	Canadian dollar
	1.7140/50	Deutsche mark
	1.9320/30	Dutch guilder
	1.4978/85	Swiss franc
	35.29/35	Belgian franc
	5.8250/8300	French franc
	1281/1282	Italian lire
	136.10/20	Japanese yen
	6.2175/25	Swedish krona
	6.6900/50	Norwegian crown
	6.6385/35	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	355.90/356.40	U.S. dollars

CBJ move to raise ceiling on foreign currency accounts draws positive reaction

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A decision by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to raise the ceiling for foreign exchange accounts of residents of Jordan was widely welcomed Wednesday by bankers and analysts who said the move would boost confidence in the Jordanian economy and attract increased local deposits in foreign currency.

Under the CBJ decision, announced late Tuesday, the ceiling on foreign currency accounts was raised to the equivalent of JD 500,000 from JD 150,000.

A CBJ statement said the decision was adopted "in line with the positive changes that Jordan's foreign currency market witnessed during the past two years" and aimed at "encouraging residents to transfer their accounts (held abroad) to Jordanian banks."

Banking officials and economists noted that the CBJ decision will also help influence undecided expatriates who have returned home from Kuwait and other Gulf states with their life savings.

Economist analyst and former minister Jawad Al Anani said the CBJ was responding "to the demands of the market, where there has been pressure for raising the ceiling on foreign currency accounts."

"I am confident that the raising of the amount will lead to increased deposits in foreign exchange with local banks," Dr. Anani said.

The ceiling was imposed in the first place, according to Dr. Anani, since the CBJ apparently felt that the presence of high deposits in foreign currency with the private sector might give rise to a "false sense of security" of foreign exchange reserves regardless of the fact that the Kingdom's

monetary authorities had very little effective control over the funds, particularly that part of such deposits belonged to non-residents.

"After all, these funds are volatile since the depositors could withdraw from their accounts any time they choose, leading to instability in the market if there was any dependence on them as foreign exchange reserves," noted Dr. Anani.

Fahed Faneh, another analyst, pointed out that "dollarisation" of private sector deposits would have deprived the Jordanian monetary authorities "certain flexibilities" while making adjustments in the economy.

"I believe that the raising of the ceiling is only transitional, leading to a total lifting of any limit on foreign exchange accounts," Dr. Faneh said.

Abdullah Malki, head of the Association of Banks in Jordan, also welcomed the CBJ move as "highly positive" and said he gave confidence to depositors to maintain their money within the Kingdom.

"There are expatriates who have come back with their life savings and the CBJ move should give them confidence to deposit their money in local banks," Dr. Malki said.

Maher Waked, executive director of the Bank of Jordan, said the CBJ has responded positively to the demand in the local banking system for a higher ceiling for foreign exchange.

"The new ceiling JD 500,000 is quite adequate; in fact it is rather high," he said. "I hope that the CBJ move serves the purpose of attracting increased local deposits in foreign currency, away from the tendency of many to bank abroad."

For the time being, the CBJ decision plugs in a gap in the banking system, "and further steps in this direction have definitely to await the impact of the move and depends on whether it brings in additional funds as hoped for," Dr. Waked said.

Another banker said that the CBJ move helps alleviate apprehension on the part of depositors that their funds could be appropriated by the central bank any time it chooses.

There was little ground for such fear, but the fact remained that the fear would not just go away, said the banker, who preferred anonymity. "Now that the ceiling has been raised by more than double, there should be a positive impact on diminishing such fears and increasing confidence in the Jordanian economy," he added.

The banker also noted that many depositors used to easily skirt the JD 150,000 ceiling by opening accounts under the names of different members of the family.

The central bank holds 33 per cent of all foreign currency deposits with commercial banks under a mandatory regulation. They total of such mandatory as well as voluntary deposits with the CBJ by commercial banks stood at the equivalent of JD 730 million at the end of July.

The total of foreign currency accounts with Jordanian banks stood at the equivalent of JD 900 million at the end of July.

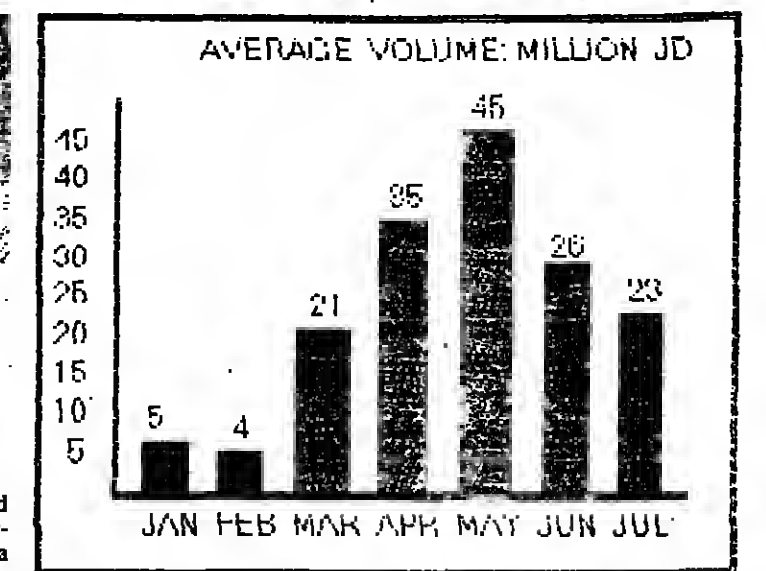
Dr. Faneh said the lifting of the ceiling warrants action by banks "to find ways to invest part of the idle foreign exchange deposits through lending it to foreign exchange earners within Jordan."

"The only option right now for the banks is to keep the foreign exchange idle in London," he said. "But there are exporters in Jordan who can afford to borrow in dollars and return in dollars," he noted.

Wait and see ... meanwhile, speculate Investors take cautious approach in trading at Amman Financial Market



Ibrahim Bilbeisi
By Robin Agarwal
Special to the Jordan Times



AMMAN — Until political and economic certainty returns to Jordan, investors are likely to take a wait-and-see attitude towards future investment, according to Ibrahim Bilbeisi, acting general manager for the Amman Financial Market.

"Investors have the money, there's no question about that. But everyone's afraid to invest in the market because they don't know what's going on politically," he said. "Because of the political situation in the near future, that money is going to just sit there in the banks."

Although the closing price index has remained fairly constant at about 134 points since April, average volume has dropped in recent months. Monthly average volume for July was just JD 25 million, down from JD 26 million in June and JD 45 million in May.

Investors initially responded enthusiastically to the cessation of hostilities in the Gulf in February. The industrial sector was especially strong as investors expected increased trade with Iraq. This combined for a run on the market that brought average volume as high as JD 45 million in May.

Speculation was the main driver behind the May peak, according to Mr. Bilbeisi. "Investors

here act according to their emotions, and they don't use analysis. They tend to overreact to the market. But in February, the Gulf crisis ended and some stocks had lost as much as 35 per cent of their value. People saw that there were bargains to be had."

Of the 110 companies listed on the Amman Financial Market, 52 distributed at least some dividends in late April and early May. Some companies, such as Arab Chemical Industries, offered dividends as high as 100 per cent.

Mr. Bilbeisi also credited an increase in confidence in the industrial sector for some of the February-May buying.

During the crisis, officially mandated limitations curbed price falls to two per cent of a share's starting price per day. "Investors were screaming about floating the prices, but we said no," Mr. Bilbeisi said. "Instead, we had nice smooth change. Because of this two per cent price limitation, people weren't jumping out windows."

Nonetheless, the market went into its restrained equivalent of a nose dive during the war. Between August 1990 and February 1991, the average volume of trading plummeted to just JD 5.25 million per month, falling from a peak of JD 64 million per month in January 1990.

"If the Gulf war hadn't happened, we'd have had an annual trading volume of half a billion dinars for 1990," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

Listings of new companies have not picked up either. Although about 45 new companies were listed on the exchange in the first eight months of 1990, not a single one has joined this year.

However, Mr. Bilbeisi added that five already-listed companies have increased their capital by floating shares, both publicly and privately. Whether this move is an indication of confidence and expansion or an indication of financial difficulties remains to be seen.

One sector that continues to be undervalued in the post-crisis climate is services, according to Mr. Bilbeisi. "Hotels are full and profits are up. Insurance and transport will follow. Sooner or later the service sector in Jordan is going to boom."

U.S. cuts interest rates

NEW YORK (R) — The U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) cut interest rates by a quarter point Tuesday in a bid to ensure an economic recovery after more than a year of recession.

Economists said the Fed — the U.S. central bank — achieved the cut by pumping money into the banking system, causing the key federal funds rate to fall to 5.50 per cent from 5.75 per cent.

The Fed funds rate is the amount banks charge one another for overnight loans and influences rates on everything from home mortgages to personal loans.

"It's justified on almost any grounds — weak economy, weak money growth and slower inflation," said Stephan Slier of Lehman Government Securities Inc.

The Fed has cut the federal funds rate 10 times since the recession began in July 1990, shaving a total of 2.75 percentage points off the key lending rate.

Economists said the rate was now at its lowest since mid-1977, when it averaged 5.40 per cent.

The Fed has also cut the discount rate — the amount it charges banks for short-term loans — from 7.0 per cent to 5.5 per cent between last December and this May. But it left the discount rate unchanged Tuesday.

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Morocco raises tobacco, soft drink prices

RABAT (R) — Prices of tobacco and cigarettes have been raised by between seven and 14 per cent by the Moroccan tobacco monopoly Regie des Tabacs, retailers said Wednesday.

Popular American brands have been raised to 20.50 dirhams (\$2.27) for a pack of 20 from

17.50 dirhams (\$1.94). Government-controlled prices of soft drinks have also been raised by 10 per cent, the local press reported.

In another area France and Morocco have signed agreements for the transit of Algerian natural gas by pipeline across Morocco

and Spain to France, officials said.

The French state company Gaz de France (GDF) signed the agreements, described as formal framework accords, with the Moroccan energy and mines ministry and the state petroleum distribution company Societe Nationale des Produits Petroliers (SNPP).

Similar accords were signed in Madrid at the end of April with the Spanish energy ministry and gas enterprise Enagas.

The Algerian petroleum company Sonatrach, Enagas, SNPP, GDF, the Portuguese company GDP and Rurgas of Germany are partners in Omega2, a company set up last December to make preliminary engineering studies and decide the route of the pipeline.

Study finds unemployment highest among Australia's immigrants

SYDNEY (R) — Unemployment rates among recent immigrants to Australia are more than double that for other Australians, according to a government study.

Lebanese and Vietnamese who have arrived in Australia in the past decade face unemployment rates of 23 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. The jobless rate in the Australian population generally was 9.8 per cent in

June.

"Among the recently arrived groups, there are systematic biases operating against them that are not observed among the immigrant workforce as a whole," Professor Ian McAllister of the University of New South Wales said in a report commissioned by the Bureau of Immigration Research.

Being in an older age group and lack of proficiency in English were the major factors counting

against the Lebanese.

Among Vietnamese the major obstacles were age and lack of qualifications. In both groups, jobless rates were higher for women than for men, the study said.

The study found that the longer immigrants stayed in Australia, the lower their unemployment rates were. "As immigrants integrate into Australian society... their birthplace becomes less important," said the study.

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- A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder on the submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 160.
- All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 5 per cent in accordance with clause 15, page 10 of the instructions to bidders and must be delivered to the Aqaba Railway Corporation on or before 1200 hours (local time) on 15 October 1991.

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CONCORD

Tel: 677420

1- POLICE ACADEMY

Show: 3:30, 6:45, 10:30 p.m.

2- LAMBADA

Show: 5:15, 8:30 p.m.

NIJOM

Tel: 675571

To Be Opened Soon

Nabil Mashini Theatre

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Julia Roberts in

MYSTIC PIZZA

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

RAINBOW

Tel: 625155

TOM SELLECK — IN

RUNAWAY

Show: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 p.m.

Attacks breach Croatian truce

BELGRADE (R) — A ceasefire intended to stop Yugoslavia's worst ethnic violence since World War II began in the breakaway Republic of Croatia Wednesday but was quickly breached by mortar and sniper fire.

Croatian police, who blamed Serbian guerrillas, said there were no casualties in half a dozen incidents after the 6 a.m. (0400 GMT) deadline and that fire was not returned.

But Deputy Interior Minister Milan Brezak warned at a news conference: "I cannot guarantee that we will not return fire... We cannot let terrorists continue killing innocent people in contravention of the (ceasefire) decision."

Yugoslavia's collective presidency, which declared the ceasefire Tuesday evening, also ordered Croatian security forces and Serbian guerrillas to pull out of range of each other by 6 p.m. (1600 GMT) Wednesday.

The presidency is trying to halt a conflict which has claimed an estimated 300 lives since Croatia and Slovenia declared their independence from Yugoslavia on June 25, threatening the Balkan federation with disintegration. Scores of people have died over the last two weeks in steadily worsening clashes between Croatian forces and Serbian guerrillas opposed to the rebel republic's independence.

Croatia's 4.5 million population includes a strongly nationalistic minority of 600,000 Serbs. Croatian police said the worst incidents after the ceasefire was supposed to have taken hold

occurred near Karlovac south of the Croatian capital Zagreb.

Karlovac is close to the Krajina enclave which Serbian guerrillas seized last August and have used as a springboard for attacks to expand their control over Serbian territory.

Mr. Brezak said more than 100 mortars were lobbed into the village of Soborska, damaging the local church and destroying several houses.

The bombardment coincided with the start of the ceasefire and lasted for four hours. "This number of mortars was not intended to hit just the police station but also civilian and other buildings," Mr. Brezak said.

Police did not know if units of the Serbian-led federal army, accused by Croatia of helping the guerrillas, joined in the attack, he added.

Incidents were also reported in eastern Croatia on the border with Serbia and in villages south-east of Zagreb which Croatia warned were under threat of a major guerrilla assault before the ceasefire was negotiated.

The army accused Croatian police of launching attacks on it in eastern Croatia during the night but said its forces suffered no casualties.

Diplomats said the durability of the ceasefire depended on the discipline of the highly-motivated guerrilla forces who have inflicted heavy losses on the Croatian police and National Guard.

Federal presidency members travelled to Krajina and to eastern Croatia to talk directly with

guerrilla commanders and gain their consent to a halt in the fighting.

Mr. Brezak indicated that Croatia was angered by the breaches of the agreement and added: "We intended to do everything required of us under the ceasefire but we are not going to negotiate with representatives of terrorist groups or fictional political formations."

He was speaking about the autonomous government Serbs have set up in Krajina, a mountainous region between the Adriatic Sea and Zagreb where Croatian security forces do not venture.

Croatia expected the presidency to ensure that its police were allowed to resume control of areas such as Krajina where they have been ousted, he added.

U.K. calls for maximum pressure on Belgrade

Meanwhile Britain urged the world community Wednesday to exert maximum pressure on Yugoslavia to achieve a ceasefire and get peace talks started but reiterated its dislike of the idea of a European peacekeeping force.

Foreign Office Minister Douglas Hogg also said in answer to a question on British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio that he did not think a Soviet warning against sending troops to Yugoslavia threatened a return of history.

Big power involvement in Serbia began World War II in the summer of 1914. The Soviet Union Tuesday warned that military

involvement in Yugoslavia would lead to a conflict embracing all of Europe.

Soviet leaders "clearly do have very serious inhibitions about the deployment of military forces," Mr. Hogg said. "And so do we."

"I don't think we will have a rerun of history but we could have a tragedy," Mr. Hogg said. "Our purpose is to get the republics within Yugoslavia to agree to a ceasefire. Unless they do that we can't carry the matter further forward. We are in the business of maximising the pressure on the republics."

Mr. Hogg said there might be scope for some kind of force to police an agreed peace, but not to impose one.

And even in that case "we have a preference for civilian monitoring teams," he said.

In London, British-based diplomats of countries in the Western European Union (WEU), a defence organisation consisting of nine of the 12 European Community (EC) countries, met to discuss the crisis in Yugoslavia.

British officials said the talks, set up by an EC meeting in the Hague Tuesday, would discuss ways to safeguard any ceasefire that may be implemented in Yugoslavia.

Britain was represented by Senior Foreign Office defence expert John Goulden, while other countries sent ambassadors, or their deputies, based in London.

WEU members are France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Portugal and Britain.

U.S. will quit Philippines if bases pact rejected — Cheney

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Tuesday the U.S. military "would pack up and go elsewhere" if the Philippine Senate rejects a new agreement on military bases.

Mr. Cheney, in an interview with Reuters, said he would prefer not to leave the Subic Bay Naval Station but added the United States would not reopen negotiations completed last month.

"I think if the Philippine Senate turns it down, I think that's it," Mr. Cheney said. "It's a good package... it clearly is in the interest of both governments to conclude the agreement, and it ought to be concluded."

"But we don't have any interest in going back and reopening negotiations," he said.

His remarks, which seemed meant as a signal to Philippine officials, followed closely similar remarks issued by the U.S. embassy in Manila. The lease on Clark Air Base and Sobic, the largest U.S. military bases in Asia, expires on Sept. 16.

The new agreement allows the United States to keep Subic for at least 10 years and give up Clark Air Base, extensively damaged in the volcanic eruption of Mount Pinatubo.

The package includes yearly security assistance of \$200 million in cash, plus other benefits such as surplus military equipment and food aid which Manila

says would bring the total to more than \$800 million annually.

The 23-member Philippine Senate must approve the agreement but a majority of members have already said they will reject it because Washington has not offered enough. The Senate is waiting for the final draft before a formal vote.

"We hope it would be approved. If for some reason it's not, then, of course, we would pack up and go elsewhere," Mr. Cheney said. "We'd have to make other arrangements."

Mr. Cheney said the United States and Soviet Union were far from being ready to fight side-by-side although military ties between them were as good as they have been since World War II.

Mr. Cheney also said he believed the two countries would focus on the near future on implementing recent treaties on conventional forces in Europe (CFE) and long-range nuclear weapons rather than negotiate new arms agreements.

"The military-to-military relationship is probably as good now as it's been since the end of World War II, in the sense that there are a lot of exchanges, return visits," Mr. Cheney said.

"I think we have a better understanding of their military problems and requirements. I think they have a better understanding of ours. I think that's part of the overall improvement



Dick Cheney

in relations," he said.

Mr. Cheney acknowledged Soviet cooperation with the U.S.-led coalition in the Gulf war, but said the two countries have "got a long way to go" before they are ready to fight along side each other in a mutual conflict.

"It might be more likely that you'd get U.S. and Soviet personnel participating under some international auspice... that kind of thing would seem to be more likely than actual cooperation in terms of the forces fighting side by side," he said.

Mr. Cheney hailed the new CFE and strategic arms reduction treaties, which still must be approved by the Senate, as "probably the two most significant arms-control agreements in modern times."

COLUMN

Puff the magic pain-killer

PEKING (R) — A single puff from a special cigarette developed by a Peking research institute can stop toothache in 10 seconds, the official China Daily reported Wednesday. The newspaper quoted Sun Guofu, president of the Peking Design and Research Institute of Physical and Chemical Engineering, as listing the cigarette among 32 projects tested and awaiting full production and marketing. Mr. Sun said that in addition to the immediate relief from the first puff, use of the so-called "toothache killer cigarette" could keep dental pain at bay for a year.

Americans to give crime a going away party

WYNEWOOD, U.S. (AP) — New Orleans planned a jazz-style mock funeral and Phoenix residents signed a giant card for criminals as communities around the nation got ready to give crime and drugs a going away party. More than 23 million people throughout North America, all U.S. territories and military bases worldwide were expected to take part in the eighth annual National Night Out, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. President Bush took part in the kickoff ceremony for the night out in Arlington, Virginia, saying that "law-abiding citizens want criminals to know that there are more of us than them." He was introduced by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh as the No. 1 champion of the effort. "We want to turn back the clock to the old days, when all the kids knew the cop on the beat, when people looked out for their neighbors, when we felt safe in our communities," Mr. Bush said. Town Watch Director Matt A. Peskin said National Night Out, once a few thousand people sitting on porches with lights turned on, this year will be characterized by crime prevention parties in 8,300 communities nationwide. This year's theme — "give neighborhood crime and drugs a going away party" — will be highlighted by thousands of block parties, cookouts, ice cream socials and parades, Peskin said.

Cheney backs ban against gays

WASHINGTON (R) — Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Tuesday he had no plans to change a controversial ban against homosexuals in the U.S. military services. "The services over the years at the direction of the department have maintained a policy that basically says that gay lifestyle is not compatible with military service. That is the policy today and I don't have any plans to change it," he told Reuters in an interview. Cheney was asked about recent growing demands from gay groups that military service be opened to homosexuals. Since 1982, as many as 10,000 people have been discharged from the military under the ban on gays. "It is not under review at present," he said. "I can't say no — absolutely never, that it wouldn't happen. But I don't at this point have any plans to change the policy."

Poland cracks down on illicit liquor vendors

WARSAW (R) — Poland is cracking down on illegal street sales of liquor and has detained 388 people, most of them foreigners, police said Tuesday. The Polish News Agency (PAP) quoted a spokesman as saying more than 10,000 people had been fined. Police confiscated more than 11,000 bottles of vodka and other spirits from illicit vendors, mainly Russians, Bulgarians and Romanians. Despite the crackdown, illegal spirits remain readily available from out-of-suitcase vendors at open-air markets throughout Poland. Russians sell name-brand Scotch whisky at one-third of the retail price and Balkan visitors offer similar deals on their native brandies.

Tennis shoe mania brings out Soviet troops

MOSCOW (R) — Twelve thousand pairs of imported Italian tennis shoes created such a stir in a remote Soviet town that elite troops were called in to fight off waves of workers demanding the latest in Western footwear. The arrival of the shoes in Nizhny Tagil, 1,000 kilometres east of Moscow, sparked off three days of disorder at a metallurgy plant, the Soviet daily Tass said Tuesday. A lone clerk distributing the shoes had to call out the Omon "black beret" troops of the Interior Ministry to contain the crowds.

Russian Communists choose new party boss

MOSCOW (AP) — As fractures deepened in the Communist Party, a political unknown was chosen to lead the huge, hardline Russian Communist Party, and the optional party outlawed an upstart pro-democracy faction.

"Call this information sensational," the reformist newspaper Moskovsky Komsomolets said Wednesday, referring to Tuesday's resignation of Russian Communist Party leader Ivan Polozkov.

Replacing Russian Communist Party leader Ivan Polozkov, who resigned Tuesday, was Valentin Kuptsov, a longtime party apparatchik who was placed in charge of relations with other political parties after they were legalised last year.

Mr. Kuptsov, 53, is virtually unknown outside the party, but the Soviet News Agency TASS said his rise to the party's top echelons was promoted by President Mikhail Gorbachev. He holds one of the 100 seats in the National Supreme Soviet legislature reserved for party appointees.

Also Tuesday, the faltering national party expelled the leader of the pro-democracy group, Russian Republic Vice President Alexander Ruskol.

National party membership has fallen to 15 million, a drop of 4.2 million members in the last 18 months. The Russian Republic's membership is roughly half the national membership.

The Democratic Party of Russian Communists, expelled Tuesday, claims to represent another 5 million potential defectors from the party.

The pro-democracy group decided last weekend to found a "party within the party" and try to gain recognition as the sole Russian branch of the national Communist Party.

But the national party's secretary said in a statement Tuesday the formation of the Democrats' faction was "unlawful" and that its real aim was to split the Communist Party.

TASS commentator Lyudmila Alexandrova said the decision to replace Polozkov with a political unknown gives the Russian party an opportunity to discard its image as a bastion of hardline, orthodox Communists.

"It is perfectly obvious that the

change of the Russian Communist Party leader signified an attempt to bolster its weakening position and remove the label of a conservative organisation that has firmly clung to it," she wrote.

Mr. Polozkov was widely blamed for the party's humiliating defeat in the first popular election for Russian president. Reformer Boris Yeltsin, who tore up his party membership card last summer, captured 57 per cent of the votes to easily defeat five other candidates.

Meanwhile three more republics have agreed to sign the new union treaty, bringing the total of five of the 15 republics currently constituting the Soviet Union.

Uzbekistan will join Russia and Kazakhstan in signing the treaty on Aug. 20 in the ornate St. George's Hall in the Kremlin, presidential spokesman Vitaly Ignatenko said Tuesday.

Byelorussian and Tadzhikistan will sign on Sept. 5. Mr. Ignatenko said.

The five include about 200 million of the Soviet Union's 289 million people.

The union treaty is the founding document of the Soviet Union. The new one, which transfers much power from the central government to the republics, has been hammered out in difficult negotiations with nine of the 15 republics. Six are seeking independence and refuse to sign the new treaty.

Acceptance of the treaty is critical to President Gorbachev's attempts to keep the Soviet Union together. Government has been paralysed by disagreements between Mr. Gorbachev and the republics.

The Ukraine, with 52 million people, is the key holdout. Its president accepted the draft union treaty but its parliament rejected it, saying it continued the Soviet Union as a single country instead of transforming it into a European Community-style confederation of separate, sovereign states.

Kirgizia, Turkmenia and Azerbaijan have not yet said when they will sign the treaty.

Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, Moldavia and Armenia have refused to sign the union treaty. However, Armenia's president sat in at the final negotiations as an observer.

Germans toast Brandenburg Gate with beer and Mozart

BERLIN (R) — Germany lashed out with beer, fireworks and a Mozart symphony concert to celebrate the 200th birthday of the Brandenburg Gate, symbol of national unity and reminder of a cold war that once divided the country.

Tens of thousands gathered in good humoured mood Tuesday for a gala evening which gave a hint of the gate's role in the nation's violent history.

The Brandenburg Gate was the staging ground for huge military parades and nationalist pageantry during the imperial and Nazi eras. World War II brought defeat and division.

"Today it is a symbol of the newly-won freedom of the Germans," said Berlin Mayor Eberhard Diepgen.

A neo-classical arch built in 1791, the gate was symbolised at

different times Prussian might, united German empire, Nazi aggression, Germany's cold war division along the Berlin Wall and finally its peaceful reunification.

It was the scene of wild jubilation in 1989 when Berliners were reunited after the wall came down and the gate's second centenary celebration was a more sober affair.

Germany may be united but the divisions between east and west have grown in some cases as unemployment soars with the collapse of the old Communist economy.

The evening's easygoing atmosphere hid the latest controversy over efforts to revive national traditions which some fear could evoke foreign stereotypes and scepticism about Germany.

Mugabe warns Africa against war, disintegration

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe warned African countries Wednesday that if they did not solve their economic and political problems, they risked more civil wars, bloodshed and disintegration.

"If we do not act decisively and urgently, surely, the present economic problems, ethnic strife and divisive nationalisms will eventually lead our countries to anarchy, bloodshed, civil wars and bickering over territories," said Mr. Mugabe, opening a two-day conference in Harare of 20 African Socialist and Democratic parties.

He said African leaders should quickly address the increasing demand for greater democracy by their peoples, saying that inaction and slow performance would undermine peace and stability.

"Our people want genuine democracy — a system in which they can freely and regularly make and unmake leaders, empower or remove them from office. They want a leadership responsive and committed to their needs," he said.

Senegalese President Abdou Diouf, who chairs the Organisation of the Inter-African Socialist and Democratic Parties, told the meeting: "Democracy is a world phenomenon which we will ignore at our own peril."

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the Awami League and the 28 members of the Jatiya Party of the deposed President Hossain Mohammad Ershad all backed the bill.

"We are voting for it because we don't want to be away from the mainstream on this great occasion," said former Vice-President Moudood Ahmad, acting leader of the Jatiya parliamentary party.

The bill amends the constitution so that the prime minister is the country's executive head rather than the president.

It stipulates that the president as head of state shall act on the advice of the prime minister who will be elected by members of parliament and will run the government with the help of a cabinet.

A new chapter has begun. We have now banished autocracy for ever. The journey to democracy now starts," Sheikh Hasina, chief of the opposition Awami League and Khaleda's arch-rival, said amid constant table-thumping by

MPs after Ali announced the result of the vote.

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Sri Lanka camp commander recalls surgery by radio

COLOMBO (R) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas, some of them 14-year-olds, once almost overrun a Sri Lankan army camp during a lengthy siege, the camp commander said, recalling how a medic performed amputations by radio and food and ammunition ran low.

Major Sanath Karunaratne, speaking in an interview Wednesday, praised his 800 troops for withstanding the 24-day siege that ended when a relief column finally fought its way through to Elephant Pass camp Saturday.

"If anything is to be written about the soldiers... it was courage and heroism that stood out. If not for this... we could not have survived."

It took the 8,000 reinforcements 21 days to reach the camp along a nine-kilometre route peppered with mines.

Military estimates put the death toll at 2,200 rebels and about 155 soldiers with more than 600 soldiers wounded. It was not possible to obtain rebel estimates or accounts of the fighting.

The battle for Elephant Pass, a causeway linking the northern Jaffna rebel heartland with the rest of the Indian Ocean island, was the biggest in the eight-year-old Tamil guerrilla war for an independent homeland.

Maj. Karunaratne said one officer and 26 soldiers died in the

camp and were cremated inside with full military honours.

Looking tired — "I once fell asleep while talking in the radio" — Maj. Karunaratne said the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE) started attacking the camp early on July 10.

"The first signal came from a forward bunker position," he said. "Valmala... Valmala," shouted an officer through the radio, giving the codeword — the name of a flower — for the expected rebel attack.

"Believe me, it was like the Gulf war. The Tigers kept firing a barrage of 50-kilogramme mortar bombs at 30-second intervals. The skies were filled with smoke and rumbling."

Troops replied with rocket-propelled grenades and mortars. "Both sides were probably off target because it was pitch dark and the camp lights were off," said Maj. Karunaratne.

"My second-in-command, Major Lalith Buddhadasa, talking on a radio set from a forward bunker, was hit by a mortar and was seriously wounded. Another radio officer there was killed."

Maj. Karunaratne called a nearby military base for helicopter support. But as a helicopter neared the camp, the Tigers opened up with five hidden heavy machineguns.

"It was incredible that the heli-

Explosion reported on North Sea platform

LONDON (R) — An explosion rocked a North Sea oil platform Wednesday and the operators prepared to evacuate some workers as rescue services stood by, industry sources said.

The operators of the Fulmar Platform, Shell Expro, said only that there had been "an incident."

Production was shut down. Personnel were being mustered and all had been accounted for, the company said.

"Production was shut down at the time, a muster is underway on the platform and all personnel have been accounted for. Preparations are underway to downman non-essential personnel as a routine precautionary measure," Shell Expro said.

Police said first reports suggested three people had been injured in the incident which occurred about 200 nautical miles off the east coast of Scotland.

A spokesman for the coastguards said nine helicopters and a Royal Air Force maritime reconnaissance aircraft were being used in the operation to evacuate the men.

"It's all going very smoothly at the moment," said the spokesman. "The weather is not hampering things and the forecast is for improved conditions," he said.

Scottish police confirmed that all 120 men aboard the rig had been accounted for.

The three injured had been flown to hospital on the mainland and were being treated in hospital for injuries which were not thought to be serious.

Shell Expro is a 50-50 joint venture.

Philippine army rebels threaten another coup bid

MANILA (Agencies) — Rebel soldiers who have failed several times to overthrow Philippine President Corazon Aquino threatened Wednesday to launch another coup attempt.

"For the last time, we urge Mrs. Aquino to immediately show a direction... to save our beloved country and people," a statement issued by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) said.

It said that since its last failed coup attempt in December 1989, in which 113 people were killed, it has honoured its "unilateral declaration not to move against the Aquino government."

"Unfortunately, the political, social, and economic situation has turned from bad to worse and reaching a point of irreversibility because of insensitivity, greed, graft and corruption, the breakdown of law and order, discipline and morality, and the lack of professionalism in the military, police and the civilian bureaucracy," it said.

The statement was sent to news organisations. Mrs. Aquino has survived six coup attempts in her five and a half years in office.

Rebel soldiers have vowed to oust her before her term expires in June 1992 but she has dismissed the threat, saying they were a spent force.

"The rightwing forces have grown weak and they have no more capability to renew their previous strength," Defence Secretary Renato de Villa said in a radio interview Tuesday.

The country's most wanted rebel officer, cashiered Colonel Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, is still at large.

Col. Honasan, with a five million peso (\$178,570) reward on his head, is believed to have led three of the six coup attempts

against Mrs. Aquino. Meanwhile Amnesty International urged Philippines senators to vote against a bill that would reintroduce the death penalty for some drug-related offences.

In an open letter to legislators the London-based human rights group said: "Amnesty International appeals to all senators to vote against the proposed amendment to the dangerous drugs bill reintroducing the death penalty."

Amnesty said it shared the government's distaste for drug-related crime and recognised the need for effective solutions to such law-breaking.

But it added: "We would like to emphasise that existing evidence indicates the death penalty is not an effective deterrent to drug trafficking and related offences."

In another development, President Aquino refused to accept the resignations of two members of a commission trying to recover the late President Ferdinand Marcos' wealth, her executive secretary said Wednesday.

Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon said Mrs. Aquino had "expressed her confidence" in commissioners Art Defensor and Mario Jalandoni, who submitted their resignations Tuesday from the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

The two had tried to resign amid continuing difficulties in getting the allegedly stolen billions, some of it stashed in Swiss bank accounts.

The commission has been accused of incompetence and mismanagement almost since it was created in 1986 to track down and recover Mrs. Marcos' hidden wealth. It is now headed by its fourth chairman, and at least seven commission investigators have been jailed for allegedly pocketing money since 1987.

Eight soldiers were killed in a Tamil rebel ambush in northern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said Wednesday.

The troops were on routine patrol in Mullativu district Tuesday when a landmine exploded and rebels hiding nearby opened fire, he said.

The mine was planted by the LTTE who are fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east, the spokesman said. Troops at the Elephant Pass army camp were consolidating their positions after defeating the rebels in a three-week battle for the base, military sources said.

Troops were continuing to clear the area around the camp of landmines and other explosives, they said.

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